CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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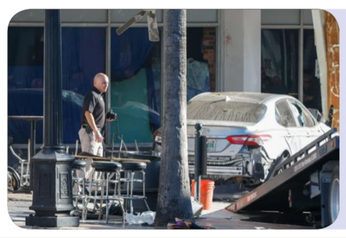

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Heritage and harmony marks VP's K'taka visit

MYSURU

Vice President of India C. P. Radhakrishnan visited the districts of Hassan, Mandya, and Mysuru on Sunday, where he took part in a series of religious and cultural events celebrating Karnataka's rich heritage. In the morning, the Vice President attended a special program at Shravanabelagola in Hassan district to commemorate the visit of Acharya Sri 108 Shanti Sagar Maharaj. During the event, he unveiled a 10-foot-tall statue of the revered Jain saint and inaugurated a name plaque on the life of the Acharya, along with dedicating the newly recognized fourth hillock, Shanthigiri, to the public.

Speaking on the occasion, Radhakrishnan described Karnataka as a sacred land that has long protected India's culture, tradition, and

VP Radhakrishnan praised Charukeerthi Bhattaraka Swamy's role in Shravanabelagola's progress

spirituality. "Shravanabelagola represents peace, sacrifice, and the essence of Jain culture. Jain Dharma has made immense contributions to India's spiritual and cultural heritage," he said. He also praised the contributions of Karmayogi Charukeerthi Bhattaraka Swamy, who played a vital role in Shravanabelagola's development, particularly in education and health. "He opened the doors to Jain literature by establishing the Prakrit Study and Research Institute," Radhakrishnan noted.

He also lauded the present seer, Abhinava Charukeerthi Swamy, for continuing that legacy and spreading the teachings of Acharya Shanti Sagar Maharaj.

Later, the Vice President visited Sri Cheluvanarayanaswamy Temple at Melkote in Mandya district, where he offered prayers. In the afternoon, he attended the annual convocation ceremony of the JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research in Mysuru and later visited Suttur Mutt, a renowned spiritual center in the region.

Radhakrishnan concluded his day by offering obeisance to Goddess Chamundeshwari atop Chamundi Hill in Mysuru, reaffirming his respect for Karnataka's diverse traditions and its role in preserving India's spiritual essence.

Vijayendra should appeal to Centre, not farmers: CM Siddaramaiah

KALABURAGI

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah ridiculed BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra for celebrating his birthday with protesting sugarcane farmers in Belagavi, calling it a "political drama." Speaking at Kudligi town in Vijayanagara district on Sunday, Siddaramaiah said that instead of staying with farmers, Vijayendra should have taken the issue to the Union government, which decides the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane.

"Who fixes the FRP? It's not the State, but the Central Government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and Union Minister Pralhad Joshi. Vijayendra should have met them instead of sleeping in protest tents and celebrating his birthday," the Chief Minister said while inaugurating several development projects, including a ₹859-crore scheme to fill 74 tanks in Kudligi taluk.

Our finances are strong. We have spent ₹1.12 lakh crore on subsidies and ₹1,250 crore on development in Kudligi alone.

—Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

Siddaramaiah added that the State government has already addressed farmers' concerns by offering ₹50 from the State treasury and convincing sugar mills to contribute another ₹50, bringing the total FRP to ₹3,300 per tonne. He accused Vijayendra of trying to "provoke farmers and create unrest." Criticizing the BJP for its "hunger for power," Siddaramaiah alleged that the party came to power in several States through vote theft (vote chori). "They even managed to manipulate voter lists in Mahadevpura and Aland. One house in Mahadevpura reportedly had 80 voters. How is that possible?" he questioned.

Siddaramaiah said the government raised FRP to ₹3,300 per tonne, sharing costs with sugar mills, and accused Vijayendra of provoking farmers

Responding to BJP's charge that the Congress government was "bankrupt" due to its welfare schemes, Siddaramaiah clarified, "Our finances are strong. We have spent ₹1.12 lakh crore on subsidies and ₹1,250 crore on development in Kudligi alone."

He assured that the Congress government will fulfill all 513 promises made in its 2023 election manifesto. Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar and other ministers were present at the event.

Rahul Gandhi alleged PM Modi and Amit Shah could face 'vote theft' charges, asserting Bihar will choose unity over hatred

Rahul Gandhi claims Mahagathbandhan alliance will win if votes protected

PATNA

Congress leader and Lok Sabha Opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi declared that the Mahagathbandhan alliance would "100 per cent form the government" in Bihar if there is no vote theft during the ongoing Assembly elections. He made the statement while addressing rallies in Kishanganj and Purnia on Sunday.

The issue of "vote theft" became heated after VVPAT slips were found scattered near a college in Samastipur district. The Assistant Returning Officer of Sarairanjan constituency was suspended, and an FIR was filed by the Election Commission. A viral video showing BJP leader Rakesh Sinha voting both in Begusarai and earlier in New Delhi also added to the controversy.

Rahul Gandhi accused the Election Commission of ignoring violations by ruling party members. "Genuine voters were stopped from voting while BJP leaders voted twice. The EC remains silent," he said, demanding accountability.

Calling the Bihar election a "battle of ideologies," Rahul said, "The RSS and BJP divide people, while we unite them. Modi wants youth to make reels for money; we want them educated and employed."

Rahul Gandhi accused the Election Commission of turning a blind eye to violations by ruling party members, alleging that genuine voters were prevented from casting their ballots while BJP leaders voted twice. "The EC's silence is alarming," he said.

He also alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah would eventually be "caught for vote theft," adding that "Bihar's people will choose unity over hatred."

As the campaign for the second and final phase concluded, Rahul expressed confidence that if votes are counted fairly, the INDIA bloc will form the next Bihar government.

Bhagwat says RSS rejects separate identities, embraces unity

BENGALURU

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said that the RSS allows only Hindus to join its ranks, but clarified that the term "Hindu" refers to all people native to India, not just followers of a religion. Speaking at the 100 Years of Sangh Journey: New Horizons lecture series,

Bhagwat explained that anyone—Brahmin, Muslim, or Christian—is welcome to attend RSS shakhas if they shed their separateness and join as "sons of Bharat Mata."

He said, "No Brahmin, Muslim, or Christian is allowed in the Sangh as separate identities. Only Hindus are allowed. But when you come as a son of Bharat Mata, there is no discrimination." Bhagwat also said that several Muslims and Christians attend RSS shakhas, but their individual identities are not counted separately. "Your speciality is welcome, but unity comes first," he added.

Andaman Sea hit by 5.4 magnitude earthquake, no damage reported

PORT BLAIR

An earthquake of 5.4 magnitude was recorded in the Andaman Sea on Sunday, according to the National Center for Seismology. Tremors were felt across parts of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or property damage.

The tremor struck at 12:06 p.m. at a depth of 90 km. However, Andaman and Nicobar Chief Secretary Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar reported a slightly higher magnitude of 5.7, with tremors felt in Mayabunder, Rangat, and nearby areas in North and Middle Andaman. Authorities have alerted all concerned agencies and are following standard disaster protocols.

Tiger Suspected of Killings Captured in Bandipur

MYSURU

Forest officials have successfully captured a tiger suspected of killing three people near the Bandipur Tiger Reserve (BTR) in Karnataka. The operation took place on Saturday night in the Moleyur range, and the animal was tranquilized and moved to the Chamundi Wildlife Conservation, Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre on Mysuru's outskirts. The capture followed the death of Chowdaiah Naik, 35, a farmer from Halle Heggodilu village, who was attacked on Friday. This marked the third fatal tiger attack in the area since October 26. After the latest incident, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre ordered the suspension of safari activities in Bandipur and Nagarahole reserves so staff could focus on the search operation.

Preliminary findings suggest the tiger is 12–13 years old with worn-down teeth, which may have prevented it from hunting wild prey. Officials believe this forced the tiger to venture into human settlements in search of easier prey like cattle and people. A DNA test is underway to confirm whether this tiger was responsible for all three attacks.

Minister Khandre's office stated, "The animal was weak and had begun preying on humans and livestock." Senior forest officials have been instructed to monitor tiger movements closely and investigate if other big cats are involved.

After VIP perks row, K'taka orders probe into Parappana Agrahara Jail

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has launched a probe into security lapses at Bengaluru's Parappana Agrahara Central Jail after videos showed high-risk inmates using mobile phones and receiving VIP treatment. The clips feature serial rapist Umesh Reddy, an alleged ISIS recruiter, and actor Tarun, accused in a gold smuggling case.

Authorities suspect insider involvement. Home Minister G. Parmeshwara condemned the lapses, stressing that no inmate should access phones. A detailed report has been ordered, with B. Dayanand appointed to lead the investigation.

More on page 5

QUICK READ

Delhi residents protest toxic air, several detained

NEW DELHI

Rising air pollution in Delhi prompted parents, mothers with children, and environmental activists to stage a protest at India Gate on Sunday. Demonstrators demanded urgent government action for clean air, citing health risks, including damaged lungs in children. Police detained several protesters for assembling without permission, noting that Jantar Mantar is the designated protest site. Data from the Air Quality Early Warning System showed Delhi's AQI at 392, with some areas exceeding 400.

Math supports education for auto drivers' kids

BENGALURU

Adi Chunchanagiri Math announced it will support the education of children of auto drivers facing financial struggles. Sri Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji spoke at the 12th Annual Drivers' Day and Gold Medal Ceremony at Shalini Ground, Jayanagar, organized by local auto driver associations. Swamiji urged drivers to embrace technology and focus on their children's learning. Former CM Dr. Ashwathnarayan called for a state Auto Development Corporation and action against unauthorized whiteboard taxis.

Pakistan's 27th Amendment reshapes military, judiciary

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's government has proposed the 27th Constitutional Amendment, giving Army Chief Asim Munir unprecedented powers. The bill creates a Chief of Defence Forces post, merging Army, Navy, and Air Force command under Munir. The amendment abolishes the Joint Chiefs' position and grants five-star officers lifelong privileges and constitutional immunity. It also restructures the judiciary, establishing a Federal Constitutional Court with authority over constitutional matters, limiting the Supreme Court's role. Supporters call it modernization; critics warn of centralised military control and weaker civilian oversight.

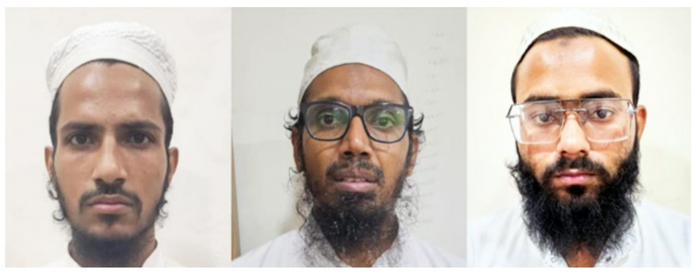
DEADLY ATTACK THWARTED

Gujarat ATS foils large-scale terror plot, three arrested

NEW DELHI

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) arrested three men, including a doctor from Hyderabad, who were allegedly planning a large-scale terror attack using weapons and deadly chemicals. Officials said the accused were in Gujarat to exchange weapons and had conspired to create a toxic poison called ricin.

According to ATS DIG Sunil Joshi, the main accused, Dr. Ahmed Mohiyuddin Saiyed,



earned his MBBS degree in China and was found carrying two Glock pistols, one Beretta pistol, 30 live cartridges, and four litres of castor oil when caught near Adalaj in Gandhinagar on November 7. Saiyed had been in touch with his handler Abu Khadija, reportedly linked to the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) and based in Afghanistan.

Investigators said Saiyed was radicalised and had begun preparing ricin, a highly lethal poison, after gathering the necessary equipment and chemicals. He was also allegedly planning to recruit others and raise funds for further terror activities.

Based on Saiyed's phone data, the ATS later arrested Azad Suleman Sheikh and Mohammad Suhail Mohammad Saleem, both from Uttar Pradesh, in Banaskantha district. They had allegedly supplied weapons to Saiyed after collecting them from Rajasthan.

The suspects had reportedly surveyed sensitive areas in Lucknow, Delhi, and Ahmedabad. The ATS said the weapons were likely sent by drones from Pakistan.

All three have been charged under the UAPA, Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, and Arms Act. Saiyed is in custody until November 17, while the other two were presented before a court.

QUICK READ

Auto driver dies after falling into a ditch

Bengaluru

The deadline set by GBA Commissioner M. Maheswara Rao to repair Bengaluru's potholes is just a day away, yet the city's roads continue to pose dangers. On Harlur Main Road in Sarjapur, an auto-rickshaw driver met with an accident after hitting a deep ditch, once again exposing the poor state of infrastructure in Silicon City. The vehicle remained stuck for several hours, drawing the attention of local residents and commuters. Frustrated citizens expressed anger over the repeated negligence of authorities and the substandard quality of road repairs. Many took to social media to highlight the issue, calling it a stark reminder that despite official promises and deadlines, the condition of Bengaluru's roads remains unsafe and deeply concerning.

Free yoga camp begins in Hoskote city

Bengaluru

The Swami Vivekananda Yoga Education Committee in Hoskote is organizing a free yoga camp starting November 10 to promote fitness and well-being. Yoga guru Nagaraj emphasized that yoga plays a vital role in maintaining good health and reducing body fat. The special sessions will be held at Yoga Bhavan, located on the premises of Swami Vivekananda School. To ensure comfort and convenience, separate batches have been arranged for men and women. Organizers have encouraged residents to make use of this opportunity to improve their physical and mental health through yoga practice. For further details or registration, interested participants may contact Yoga guru Nagaraj at 9448310491.

MLC Ramesh Babu demands to amend Lokayuta Act

Member of Legislative Council Ramesh Babu appeals to Law Minister HK Patil to amend Lokayukta Act to ensure transparency in officials' asset

BENGALURU

MLC and President of KPCC Media department Ramesh Babu has demanded Miniter for Law and Parliamentary Affairs HK Patil to initiate action for amending the Lokayukta Act.

In his letter addressed to the Minister, he said, as per the Karnataka Lokayukta Act, every year, the members of the Karnataka State Legislative Assembly are required to submit their asset details to the Lokayukta. The list of MLAs who have not submitted their asset details by June 30th is released as per the Lokayukta Act. This is necessary in the public interest. Similarly, it is necessary in the public interest for the Lokayukta/Upa Lokayukta working in the Lokayukta to publish their asset list.

> I request the Karnataka State Government to amend the Act in the coming session to make it mandatory for the Lokayuktas, Upalokayuktas and employees working in the Karnataka Lokayukta to disclose their assets every year, Ramesh Babu has stated in the letter.

On July 12, 2021, I had made a request to the State Government to amend the Karnataka Lokayukta Act and bring an act to enable the Lokayukta and Upa Lokayukta working in the Lokayukta to publish their asset and income list in the public interest. In accordance with my request, the government had written a letter to the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms on August 5, 2021 and instructed to take further action to amend the Act. The Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms had written a letter to the Registrar of the Karnataka Lokayukta on October 27, 2021, asking for an opinion on the amendment of the Act. However, no information has been publicly provided by the Registrar of the Lokayukta to the said letter, either in the form of a reply or information.

For the sake of transparent governance, it is a healthy and necessary step for the judges and government employees working in the Lokayukta to disclose the details of their assets.

Residents demand urgent expansion of Banaswadi underpass

BENGALURU

Commuters face endless congestion during peak hours, residents urge swift tunnel expansion, seek traffic police presence for smoother movement.

> "This tunnel is actually a storm water drain used as a road under the bridge, and it's too narrow for traffic," said C Murali Simhadri, President, Bengaluru Eshanya Mahavedike (BEM)

Residents of Lingarajapuram, Kammanahalli, and Banaswadi have been appealing to the elected representatives and South Western Railway authorities to either add one more underpass or increase the width of the existing underpass at Banaswadi Railway Station. It has become a tough task for motorists to use the tunnel during peak hours.

They said the underpass under Banaswadi Railway Station connects Lingarajapuram, Kammanahalli, and other parts of the city and plays a vital role in easing local connectivity. This tunnel is a stormwater drain used as a road under the bridge and is very narrow for traffic. The feeder roads on both sides are also narrow and often jammed to the full because the Lingarajapuram and Maruthi Seva Nagar flyovers are not wide enough. So, commuters use this tunnel more frequently, resulting in traffic congestion. The passengers arriving to board or disembark from trains add to the huge traffic mess, said Murali Simhadri, president of Bengaluru Eshanya Mahavedike (BEM).

Stating that the single six-metre-wide tunnel is not enough to handle the traffic volume, Simhadri said that the BEM and residents coordinated with MLA K J George's office and KRIDE to propose a double tunnel measuring 6 metres by 4 metres to accommodate traffic. The proposal was agreed in principle, but it is allegedly delayed due to a change of contractor. The congestion near the underpass has become a daily bottleneck during peak hours. The proposed rotary bridge at Maruthi Seva Nagar is also delayed.

I appeal to the authorities to resolve these issues at the earliest, he added.

Expressing concern over the traffic snarls near the Banaswadi Railway Station, BEM organising secretary Muniraju Sriramalu said that volunteers have been struggling to regulate vehicular movement near the underpass. "I have also tried my best to mitigate traffic jams by manually regulating vehicles for a few hours. I appeal to the authorities to assign traffic police to manage the flow," he said.

The BEM has written to the South Western Railway Divisional Manager, Saghyanagar MLA K J George, Bengaluru Central MP P C Mohan, and Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna urging expansion of the existing underpass or construction of a new one to ensure two-way traffic without hassles.

Free training for unemployed youth

BENGALURU

A large-scale initiative to provide training and employment opportunities for unemployed youth in Bengaluru Rural district is being launched under the collaboration of HDFC Bank's Parivartan programme and Ramky Foundation.

The skill development training programme, conducted at the HDFC-Ramky Foundation Training Center located in Hosakote, will be inaugurated on November 11 by MLA Sharath Kumar Bache Gowda.

The event will also be attended by the Managing Director, Karnataka Skill Development Corporation NM Nagaraja, District Skill Development Officerm C Jaganatha and Deputy Director of Factories SA Narasimha Murthy, along with representatives from HDFC Bank and Ramky Foundation. A total of 1500 youth will receive training under this programme, which is funded through HDFC Bank's CSR initiative and implemented by Ramky Foundation. Over the course of three years, the project aims to train a total of 1500 candidates.

K-Ride chops down 90 trees for suburban rail flyover

BENGALURU

The Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) (K-Ride) has cut 90 trees along Mohan Kumar Road between Mathikere and Yeshwantpur to make way for a proposed double-decker flyover under the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP). The move marks the start of preparatory work for the 1.2km structure, which will carry both a suburban rail line and a road as part of corridor 2 of the project.

As per the plan, a 5.5-metre-wide road will be built on either side at level 1, while the suburban rail viaduct will come up at level 2. The project is estimated to cost Rs 150 crore, with the state government bearing the expenditure. K-Ride officials said tree removal was carried out only after securing approval from the tree officer. Deputy conservator of Forests (Greater Bengaluru Authority) GK Sudarshan told that permission was granted to fell 90 of 98 trees identified along the stretch, the other eight trees have been marked for translocation.

However, residents have raised objection to the axing of decades-old trees. Gayatri Ramnath, a resident of LIC Colony, Mathikere, said, "We've been seeing this green avenue for over 20 years. It is distressing to see these trees being cut down."

"Though we were told it was for the suburban rail line, no effort was made to save the trees," she added. K-Ride sought clearance for tree removal in January 2024. The trees removed included species such as pongamia, yellow flame, pink trumpet, and mahogany, many with a girth of over 2 metres.

The trees were located on the median of the road. For the 8km viaduct and 17.5km at-grade section between Benniganahalli and Chikkabanavara, the tree officer approved the felling of 699 trees, translocation of 89, and retention of 493.

HC halts BMRCL's ₹65-cr metro ad tender

BENGALURU

In a setback to the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), the Karnataka High Court has issued an interim stay on the corporation's outdoor advertising tender, estimated to generate around Rs 65 crore in revenue, citing concerns of bias and unfair treatment toward smaller advertising firms.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj, who heard the petition filed by the Indian Outdoor Advertising Association (IOAA), passed the interim order, halting the implementation of the tender issued on September 17, for displaying advertisements on Metro piers and portals. The court observed that the scoring system outlined in the tender appeared one-sided and potentially discriminatory against smaller firms. Notices have been issued to BMRCL, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), and the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). The next hearing is scheduled for November 13.

The court noted that under Table-12 of the tender document, 50 out of 100 marks were allotted to three subjective parameters—experience in Metro Rail projects, proposed design and methodology, and presentation of work plan (PPT). It remarked that this allowed considerable discretion and potential bias in evaluation. Bidders with prior experience in Metro projects could easily score higher, thereby excluding smaller advertisers represented by IOAA from meeting the minimum qualifying mark of 70 needed to open financial bids. The bench observed that since half of the total marks were based on subjective evaluation, BMRCL should review the grievances raised by the petitioner association representing several outdoor advertisers.

The High Court's interim order has effectively paused BMRCL's tender process until further directions. The upcoming hearing on November 13 will determine whether the corporation must revise its evaluation system or reissue the tender.

16th anniversary of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan with 12-day fest

BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB), Bengaluru Kendra, is set to mark its Sixtieth Anniversary with a grand 12-day festival titled "Santhavani" from November 10 to 21.

Hosted at Khincha Hall on Race Course Road, the festival aims to highlight the invaluable contribution of Indian poet-saints, philosophers, and spiritual thinkers in enriching the nation's diverse heritage. The event is segmented into two main phases: a Film Festival followed by a series of illuminating sessions featuring eminent scholars and spiritual leaders.

The festival will kick off with a five-day film festival from November 10 to 14, dedicated to devotional classics. The inauguration on November 10 will be led by National Awardee Film Director TS Nagabharana.

The opening day will also see the inauguration of a book exhibition-cum-sale, featuring bestsellers on related topics, by noted critic and columnist Dr Narahalli Balasubramanya. The core lecture series will run from November 15 to 21. The sessions will be inaugurated by M Veerappa Moily, former Chief Minister and Saraswathi Samman recipient, with a Keynote Address by Shatavadhani R Ganesh.

The sessions promise a deep dive into the lives and philosophies of spiritual traditions across India and beyond, featuring an array of speakers. Topics will range from the Vaishnava and Shaiva traditions of the South to the philosophies of the North.

Entry to all events is free, though interested members of the public must register via the BVB website or email santvanibvbblr@gmail.com by November 10.

Jail officials mum over videos of inmates with VIP facility

BENGALURU

A bunch of video footages purportedly showing notorious inmates, including a suspected member of a terror outfit,' using smart phones and enjoying the luxury of watching LED TVs inside the barracks of Parappana Agrahara central prison, went viral on Saturday.

The videos doing rounds on social media sparked widespread outrage and raised serious questions about security lapses in the high-security facility.

However, officials from the prison department, refused to verify the authenticity of the video and didn't confirm about facilities given to inmates.

In the first video, notorious serial rapist Umesh Reddy, is seen using two smartphones

and watching television. He is seen enjoying an 'item song' on a table-top LED TV, while talking over the phone.

Reddy, who terrorised women across the state between 1996 and 2002, was convicted for multiple cases of rape and murder.

In another video, Tarun Raju, an accused in the gold smuggling case along with actor Ranya Rao, was seen using a mobile phone and cooking his own food on the prison premises. Reports suggest he enjoys privileges similar to those of VIP inmates, pointing to possible 'administrative lapses'.

Another video purportedly shows Juhad Hameed Shakeel, an accused in an ISIS-related case.

Shakeel, who was arrested for recruiting youths into the ISIS outfit, is seen enjoying access to gadgets and other comforts inside the jail, in sharp contrast to the strict restrictions expected for high-risk inmates.

Residents living around Parappana Agrahara central prison complain of poor mobile network due to high-tech signal jammers installed inside the facility. But the videos show inmates using mobile phones with uninterrupted network coverage and watching HD quality videos inside their cells.

ENCOURAGE FOLK ARTS

Efforts to nurture folk talent must continue: Limbavali

BENGALURU

"The folk arts such as songs, stories, dances, etc. that have been traditionally practiced among the rural people of all languages of India are rich. The work of encouraging and bringing them out should be continuous," said former Minister Arvind Limbavali.

Speaking at the inauguration of the three-day drama festival organised by the Janapadaru Cultural Forum as part of the centenary celebrations of drama performances, he recalled the idea of establishing a Folk University in Karnataka during his tenure as Higher Education Minister, emphasizing that such initiatives are essential for the preservation and growth of folk arts. He expressed hope that similar programmes would continue to increase under the Janapadaru Cultural Forum.

On the occasion, saxophonist M.S. Subbalakshmi, who achieved a world record in saxophone playing, was felicitated, and the play "Gyanadegula Nammura Sarkari Shale", written by Janapadaru Secretary Siddheshwar Nanasumane, was released.

Forum President Katamnallur Papanna said the organisation has been actively working to promote cultural awareness and preserve traditional art forms. He added that the forum has successfully completed 100 shows featuring renowned art troupes from across the state and is also training youth in acting. The forum, he noted, is equipped with a modern auditorium featuring state-of-the-art facilities to support artistic performances.

Former Mandur Gram Panchayat President Jyothipura Venu, film actor Suresh, members of forum M Suresh, Madhusudan, Tavarekere Shivakumar, Muniraju Bidaragrahara, Shivakumar Katamnallur, Venkatachalapathy, Rajanna, Mamatha, Basavaraju, Krishnasuresh, GB Chandrashekhar, Bagepalli Krishnamurthy and others were present.

QUICK READ

Commissioner to host public phone-in programme

Begnaluru

The Bengaluru Central City Corporation has organized a phone-in programme on November 10 from 6 to 7 PM to listen to and resolve complaints/ suggestions from the public regarding potholes, garbage, street lights, dangerous trees, branches, stray dogs, pavement repairs and encroachments, maintenance of parks and other issues. Commissioner Rajendran Cholan will conduct the phone-in programme, a release said.

Shivananda Tagadooru elected as State president of KUWJ

Bengaluru

Shivananda Tagadooru has been unanimously elected as the State President of the Karnataka Working Journalists' Association (KUWJ) for the 2025–28 term. Chief Election Officer N. Ravikumar (Telex) officially announced that all nine office-bearer positions were filled unopposed.

H.B. Madan Gowda, Ajjamada Ramesh Kuttappa, and Mattikere Jayaram were elected as Vice Presidents, while G.C. Lokesh was chosen as the General Secretary. The newly elected Secretaries include Ningappa Chavadi, Pundalik Balogi, and Somashekhar Keregodu. Vasudeva Holla has been elected as Treasurer.

Ravikumar stated that the election process was completed smoothly, and the new team is expected to continue strengthening the association's work for journalists across Karnataka.

Those criticizing our schemes are now copying them: DyCM

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar says critics who once criticized Karnataka's guarantee schemes are now copying them.

VIJAYANAGARA

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday asserted that Karnataka's Congress government guarantee schemes, once criticized by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are now being replicated by states including Haryana, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar. He was speaking at the inauguration of a project to fill 74 lakes in Koodaligi constituency using water from the Tungabhadra river, along with launching various development works and distributing benefits to locals. Shivakumar said Karnataka's "five guarantees" have become a model nationwide. Highlighting the government's commitment to public welfare, he noted that over ₹800 crore has already been spent on lake rejuvenation, with an annual electricity cost of ₹80 lakh to operate these initiatives. He suggested leasing the lakes for fisheries to manage operational costs effectively while ensuring farmers benefit.

He further stated that ongoing upgrades to all crest gates of the Tungabhadra dam are underway and emphasized that water distribution decisions should prioritize farmers' needs over political pressures, in line with the central Tungabhadra Committee's recommendations. Shivakumar also highlighted other welfare measures, including free electricity for farmers' pump sets costing ₹20,000 crore and pensions amounting to ₹9,000 crore, pointing out that such schemes were absent during the previous BJP regime despite zero support from the Centre. Ahead of the event, he met local silk farmers, noting that Koodaligi hosts around 4,000 silk cultivators. He assured that local market opportunities would be strengthened, especially with the decline in Chinese silk imports boosting the value of locally produced silk.

The Deputy CM also praised the Congress party's statewide efforts, including the construction of 100 party offices.

KSRTC Wins National Award for 'Dhwani Spandana'

GURUGRAM

'Dhwani Spandana' equips 200 Mysuru buses with assistive audio tech, enabling visually impaired passengers to identify routes and board safely

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has been honoured with the prestigious National Award of Excellence in Urban Transport – 2025, conferred by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India. The award recognizes KSRTC under the category "State which has implemented the Best Urban Transport Projects during the previous year."

The accolade was presented to Akram Pasha, IAS, Managing Director, KSRTC, by Manohar Lal, Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, and Tokhan Sahu, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, at a ceremony held in Gurugram.

The award-winning initiative, 'Dhwani Spandana', is a first-of-its-kind project aimed at empowering visually impaired passengers through advanced, inclusive, and accessible public transport solutions. At the heart of this initiative is the Onboard Bus Identification and Navigation System, developed by the Raised Lines Foundation at IIT Delhi, with GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) serving as the knowledge partner. The system employs assistive audio cues that enable visually impaired users to detect approaching buses, identify their routes, and locate entry and exit points securely.

Over 400 visually impaired passengers have already been trained to use the system effectively. The project has significantly reduced travel dependency on others, while improving confidence, safety, and independence among visually impaired commuters.

CHRIST University rises to 537 in QS Asia Rankings 2026

BENGALURU

QS Quacquarelli Symonds has released the QS World University Rankings: Asia 2026, showcasing a rapidly expanding and increasingly competitive higher education landscape across the region. In this year's edition, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) has recorded a remarkable advancement, rising from the 681–700 band in 2025 to an impressive rank of 537 in 2026.

The University has also secured a strong position in South Asia, ranking 140 among the top 150 institutions in the QS World University Rankings: Asia 2026 – Southern Asia category.

CHRIST now stands among 1,526 listed Asian institutions and is one of only 294 universities from India to be featured in this year's rankings, surpassing 64.9% of all ranked institutions in Asia.

Reflecting on this achievement, the Vice Chancellor, Rev. Dr (Fr) Jose C C, remarked:

"This achievement stands as a testimony to our sustained commitment to academic excellence, research innovation, and global engagement. CHRIST has remained steadfast in building a future-oriented learning ecosystem that nurtures knowledge creation, interdisciplinary scholarship, and societal impact. We view this advancement in the QS Asia Rankings as both an honour and a responsibility to elevate our institutional contributions even further – regionally, nationally, and globally."

CHRIST University remains committed to further strengthening its global academic footprint, research visibility, and quality enhancement initiatives in the years ahead, while continuing to contribute meaningfully to society.

Let's make B'luru a walking city: KN Ramesh

BENGALURU

City South Municipal Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh led by example on Sunday by flagging off the Citizens' Walk — a 5 km pedestrian inspection held under the Project Walkoor (Walking City) initiative.

The Commissioner walked for two hours, carefully observing the condition of the city's footpaths.

This was the second pedestrian walk of Project Walkoor, held in Koramangala, where over 40 participants including local residents, civic officials, and citizens from various parts of Bengaluru joined in. Notable participants included Reeth Abraham, Arjuna Award-winning athlete and Koramangala resident, and Rekha Menon, former Chairperson of Accenture, along with several other dignitaries.

RR Nagar police file charge sheet against yoga guru Niranjana Murthy

BENGALURU

Rajarajeshwari Nagar Police has filed a charge sheet against yoga guru Niranjana Murthy, who was arrested on charges of sexually assaulting a minor girl.

The police, who have completed the investigation into the case, have submitted a chargesheet to the POCSO special court.

Yoga guru Niranjana Murthy was running a yoga center in Rajarajeshwari Nagar. A minor girl used to come to this yoga center. He sexually assaulted the minor by promising her that he would take her to the international level in yoga and make her famous. He also promised to get her a government job. Based on the complaint filed by the girl, the police arrested Niranjana Murthy.

Exponent Energy unveils rapid retrofit EV Technology

BENGALURU

Bengaluru-based energy-tech startup Exponent Energy has entered the retrofit segment with the launch of its new 'Exponent Oto' technology, designed to convert existing CNG and LPG three-wheelers into electric vehicles (EVs) equipped with 15-minute rapid-charging batteries. This innovative retrofit solution allows autorickshaws to fully charge from 0–100% in just 15 minutes at any Exponent e^pump charging station, utilizing the company's proprietary energy ecosystem.

Initially targeting passenger three-wheelers, Exponent's retrofit process takes only 24 hours to complete, giving existing vehicles a new lease of life. The retrofitted autos deliver class-leading performance, accelerating from 0–30 km/h in under 4.5 seconds and providing a real-world range of 140–150 km. Each vehicle comes with a five-year or 3,000-cycle warranty, ensuring durability and reliability.

To make the transition affordable, Exponent offers zero downpayment options, flexible EMI plans, and an assured buyback after three years, enabling drivers to save up to ₹5,000 every month compared to current fuel and maintenance costs. The system includes hill-start assist, IoT-based GPS connectivity, diagnostics, and IP67 water resistance, ensuring safety and efficiency in Indian driving conditions.

The retrofit process involves replacing traditional engine components like the gearbox, exhaust, and fuel tanks with a compact Piccolo battery pack, CX1 e^port fast-charging interface, motor, and drivetrain. The entire integration is designed to be plug-and-play, ensuring seamless conversion.

Exponent Energy CEO and Co-founder Arun Vinayak said the initiative aims to make EV adoption faster, affordable, and accessible to all. Head of Business Ayush Bhargava added that retrofitting enables more drivers to switch to EVs at half the cost of a new vehicle.

Man dies on footpath due to negligence of friend

BENGALURU

In a shocking incident that reflects a complete loss of humanity, an accident victim lost his life after suffering on a footpath the entire night due to the negligence of his friend, the indifference of locals, and the failure to alert the police. The tragic event occurred in front of the KMF office under the jurisdiction of the MICO Layout Traffic Police Station.

The victim had been travelling in a goods vehicle with his friend when the driver lost control at high speed near the KMF office, causing the vehicle to overturn. The victim sustained severe injuries in the crash. Shockingly, instead of seeking medical help or informing the authorities, the driver made the injured man sit on the footpath and fled the scene. The victim, left unattended and in pain, gradually lost consciousness and eventually died without receiving any treatment.

Witnesses later claimed that if locals had contacted the police or arranged medical assistance in time, the man's life might have been saved. The incident has triggered widespread public outrage over the lack of compassion and civic responsibility displayed.

MICO Layout traffic police, who initially registered it as an accident case, have now launched a detailed investigation after learning about the circumstances of his death and the gross negligence involved. Efforts are underway to confirm the identity of the deceased, as officials continue to piece together the full sequence of events leading to this heartbreaking tragedy.

MLA GOPALAIAH INAUGURATES HEALTH CHECKUP CAMP

BENGALURU

A mega free health check-up camp for senior citizens was organised in the premises of Huttada Venkataramanaswamy Temple in Mahalakshmi Layout Assembly constituency on Sunday. Former Minister and MLA K Gopalaiah inaugurated the mega free health check-up camp for senior citizens and urged them to take advantage of it. Various tests including blood pressure, diabetes, complete blood test, ECG, ECHO etc. will be conducted at the camp. Besides, facilities like free surgery for cataracts, eye examination and distribution of spectacles to the visually impaired have been provided. Gopalaiah once again advised them to make good use of all these services.

Former Mayor Hemalatha Gopalaiah and Rajiv Gandhi University Senate member Dr Manjunath Gowda, BD Mahalakshmi Education Trust President Jayaram, Nisarga Jagadish, N Srinivas and others were present.

Bike and car rally from Rajanukunte to Channasandra

BENGALURU

Several leaders from various parties, along with their supporters, joined the BJP on Sunday, expressing admiration for MLA S.R. Vishwanath's developmental initiatives, public outreach, and close bond with the people and workers of the constituency.

From the Congress, Sonneenahalli Zilla Panchayat member Mohan, Vijay from Chennasandra, Anil from Anchepalya, Manjunath from Byata village, and Ravi and Santosh from Dandanapalya, along with hundreds of workers and youth, arrived in a massive bike and car rally from Rajanukunte to Channasandra to join the BJP in large numbers.

These leaders said they were inspired by the achievements and development works of the central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi — the world leader and proud son of Mother India. They stated that they were also deeply impressed by the consistent developmental works, public concern, and people-centric approach of "Dharma Rakshasa," "Hindu Tiger," and popular MLA S.R. Vishwanath, which motivated them to become part of the BJP.

The joining event was attended by youth leader Alok Vishwanath, senior party figures including former DBA President Dibbur Jayanna, District Co-in-charge S.N. Rajanna, Rural Mandal President Ramamurthy, General Secretaries Manjunath and Somashekar, Raitha Morcha State Secretary Kadanamale Satish, SC Morcha Presidents Srinivas (Rural) and K.M. Murali (Urban), Mahila Morcha President Manjula Mahindra, Kasagattapur Panchayat President Sandhya Devaraj, SC Morcha General Secretary Muniraju, and several other prominent leaders.

NO END FOR PUBLIC DISTRESS

Brand Bengaluru crumbles: DCM faces public outrage

BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's much-publicized "Brand Bengaluru" initiative has come under severe criticism after a viral video exposed the grim reality of the city's crumbling infrastructure. The clip shows commuters wading through knee-deep mud on Panathur Road—one of Bengaluru's busiest routes linking the IT corridor—sparking outrage among residents.

The video, which spread rapidly across social media, depicts two-wheelers and autorickshaws struggling to move through the slushy, uneven stretch that resembled an off-road track rather than an urban road.

Enraged citizens tagged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, accusing the government of neglecting core civic issues while focusing on branding campaigns. "Brand Bengaluru? More like Broken Bengaluru," one user remarked bitterly.

Critics questioned the government's "Brand Bengaluru" narrative, asking what image the city was truly projecting to the world. "We call ourselves the global tech capital, but our infrastructure mirrors a post-disaster zone," commented another.

The outrage was largely directed at the Deputy CM and GBA, with users terming the situation a "real-life example of failed governance." One resident wrote, "You call this development? It's daily torture for taxpayers." Another sarcastically posted, "Welcome to the pothole capital, where promises are smoother than the roads."

Frustrated commuters also mocked the condition of the city's roads, saying, "The roads are so narrow and bumpy that even a scooter feels oversized.

" Another added humorously, "Who needs gyms or adventure sports when our daily commute already tests every bone, nerve, and ounce of patience."

QUICK READ

Woman dies after bike hits her, car runs over

Tumakuru

A tragic accident claimed the life of a 49-year-old woman, Gangamma, near Kottagere in Kunigal taluk, Tumakuru district. While walking along the roadside, Gangamma was struck by a bike, causing her to fall onto the road. At that moment, a car approaching from behind ran over her, leading to her immediate death. The incident occurred under the jurisdiction of Kunigal police station. Authorities are investigating the accident to determine the exact circumstances and hold responsible parties accountable. Locals have expressed shock over the fatal mishap, highlighting the need for stricter traffic safety measures in the area to prevent similar tragedies.

School ragging incident leaves boy seriously injured

Mysuru

In Mysuru, a disturbing ragging incident at a prestigious school in Jayalakshmipuram left a 13-year-old boy with serious injuries to his groin. Three students allegedly forced the boy to follow their demands, including handing over money and his mobile phone. On October 25, they reportedly took him to the school restroom and attacked him, causing severe damage to his testicles. The victim and his family have urged the police to take strict action against the perpetrators, but authorities have reportedly delayed registering a formal complaint. The incident has sparked outrage among parents and the local community, highlighting ongoing concerns about ragging and student safety in schools.

Follow the principles of Lord Mahavira for peace: Guv

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot urges people to follow Lord Mahavira's teachings of peace, non-violence, and compassion for global harmony

HASSAN

"Lord Mahavira gave the eternal message of 'Live and Let Live'. We must draw inspiration from his divine teachings, follow the path he showed, and work for global peace and welfare," said Thaawarchand Gehlot, Governor of Karnataka.

He was speaking at the statue installation ceremony of Pujya Acharya Shri Shantisagar Ji Maharaj and the naming ceremony of the fourth hill organized by the Sri Kshetra Shravanabelagola Digambar Jain Mahasamsthan Math, in the august presence of Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan.

The Governor highlighted that Lord Bahubali, who attained salvation, preached four timeless principles essential for human development and inner peace — happiness through non-violence, peace through sacrifice, progress through friendship, and achievement through meditation. "These values remain deeply relevant today, offering a pathway to world peace and harmony," he said.

Speaking about the philosophy of Jainism, the Governor said, "Jainism, rooted in the ancient Sramana tradition, was shaped into a systematic spiritual path by Lord Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara. His teachings on truth, non-violence, celibacy, non-stealing, and non-possession form the foundation of peaceful coexistence and universal brotherhood. 'Ahimsa Paramo Dharmah' — non-violence is the supreme religion — is not just a doctrine but a way of life. Compassion must be reflected not only in our actions but also in our thoughts and speech. In an age marked by tension and intolerance, these teachings guide humanity towards peace, coexistence, and compassion," he observed.

The Governor also paid rich tribute to Acharya Shri Shantisagar Maharaj, and said "Acharya Shantisagar Ji demonstrated that spirituality lies not merely in scripture but in conduct. He revived the sacred traditions of Jainism through his life of self-restraint and meditation. The words 'Shanti' and 'Sagar' in his name symbolize the depth and serenity of his personality. His vast heart, like the ocean, embraced all beings with compassion and goodwill." The event was graced by Pujya Acharya Shri Suvidhi Sagar Maharaja, Pujya Sanyammurthy Acharya Shri Vardhamana Sagar Maharaja, Pujya Jagadguru Swastishri Charukirti Panditacharya, Union Minister Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy, and other dignitaries.

Two wild elephants drown in Arkavathi river backwaters

Two wild elephants drowned in Arkavathi River backwaters near Kunnuru, Kanakapura; forest officials retrieved carcasses and prepared for post-mortem

RAMANAGARA

In a tragic incident near Kunnuru village in the Sathanur forest division of Kanakapura taluk, Ramanagara district, two wild elephants lost their lives after drowning in the backwaters of the Arkavathi River.

According to local reports, the elephants were attempting to cross the river when they got trapped in a waterlogged depression formed by the receding water levels. Struggling to move forward or backward, the elephants became exhausted and eventually succumbed to the situation. Alerted by local residents who noticed the elephants in distress, the forest department was immediately informed about the incident.

Senior forest officials, including Divisional Conservator of Forests (DCF) Ramakrishnappa and Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF), visited the site to assess the situation. The rescue team is currently engaged in retrieving the carcasses of the elephants from the river's backwaters. Following this, the forest department plans to conduct post-mortem examinations to determine the exact cause of death and document the incident for official records.

The incident underscores the ongoing challenges faced by wildlife in forest areas intersecting with water bodies, especially during periods of fluctuating water levels. Forest officials have reiterated the importance of vigilance by both authorities and local communities to prevent such unfortunate occurrences in the future. They also urged residents and tourists to avoid approaching wild animals near water bodies, as unexpected situations can escalate quickly, putting both humans and animals at risk.

The loss of these two elephants is a somber reminder of the delicate balance between wildlife habitats and natural resources like rivers and backwaters. The forest department continues to monitor the area closely, taking necessary measures to ensure the safety of other animals in the region.

Chamarajanagar University hosts inter-college hill race

CHAMARAJANAGAR

The Department of Physical Education, Suvarna Gangotri of Chamarajanagar University, in association with the Government First Grade Women's College, organized the Inter-College Men's and Women's Hill Race in Chamarajanagar. The event was inaugurated by Mr. M.R. Gangadhar, who encouraged students to balance both academics and sports for holistic development. If the participants practice well, victory will be yours. Students should focus on sports along with education, he said during the ceremony.

Highlighting the university's commitment to nurturing young talent, Gangadhar noted that Chamarajanagar University has consistently promoted mental and physical growth among students since its inception. The Department of Physical Education has been actively organizing sports events and sending winners to compete at higher levels. He further stated that the university ensures that athletes meeting national standards receive opportunities to represent at state, national, and international sporting events.

In this year's competition, three male and three female athletes emerged victorious in the hill race and were selected for the next stage. The male winners will compete in Haryana, while the female winners will head to Mangaluru for the next level of the championship.

Extending his best wishes, the Vice-Chancellor of Chamarajanagar University expressed confidence that the students would excel in the upcoming competitions and bring honour and recognition to both the college and the university. The event not only celebrated athletic excellence but also reinforced the university's mission to foster a culture of sportsmanship, determination, and all-round development among its students.

Mangalore University: Inauguration of 4th Gilivindu grand convention

MANGALURU

Former Vice-Chancellor Prof. B.A. Viveka Rai inaugurated the fourth grand convention of 'Gilivindu', the alumni association of the Shri V.P. Kannada Study Centre, at Mangalore University's Mangala Auditorium on Sunday.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Rai recalled that the Kannada Study Centre, which began in 1968 as a small initiative, has now grown into a strong institution nurturing Kannada culture and scholarship. He said it was heartening to see seven generations of students united under one platform through this event.

He emphasized that Kannada should find equal space in both literature and technology. "Technology is never permanent; we must not become its slaves. Instead, we should master it while retaining our language and intellect. We must not surrender our understanding to artificial intelligence," he said.

Commenting on language education, he noted, "Once, the wealthy built temples; now they are building English-medium schools. Government primary schools are turning into English-medium institutions. English should be used only for communication, while love and responsibility for Kannada must remain strong." Mangalore University Vice-Chancellor Prof. P.L. Dharma, presiding over the function, stated that postgraduate departments should expand their scope and engage with diverse subjects instead of being confined to one line of thought.

Distinguished former professors of the Kannada Department — Prof. B.A. Viveka Rai, Prof. K. Chinnappa Gowda, Prof. Abhay Kumar, Prof. Shivaram Shetty, Prof. Somanna, Dr. Nagappa Gowda, and Dr. Dhananjaya Kumble — were felicitated.

'Gilivindu' president Prof. Shivaram Shetty delivered the welcome address, Prof. Nagappa Gowda proposed the vote of thanks, and Dr. Yashu Kumar compered the program. The event also featured a lecture by Dr. Sabitha Bannadi and cultural performances by alumni.

Prof. Rai concluded by reminding that Mangalore University is home not only to challenges but also to numerous positive academic and research achievements that society must recognize.

Suji Kurya elected as president of Udupi KUWJ

UDUPI

Senior reporter of Vijaya Karnataka from Udupi district, Subrahmanya G. Bhat (Suji Kurya), has been unanimously elected as the new President of the Udupi District Union of Working Journalists' Association (KUWJ). Vartha Bharati district correspondent Nazeer Polya has been elected as the General Secretary, and Suvarna Channel video journalist Harish Kunder as the Treasurer for the 2025–2028 term.

The election results were officially announced by Election Officer Manjunath, an official from the Udupi District Information Department. In the election for the State Executive Committee Member post, Udayavani photojournalist Astro Mohan won with a margin of 44 votes.

Unopposed winners include Udupi Mitra editor Prabhakar Acharya Chitturu, Vijaya Karnataka reporter Uday Kumar Mundkur, and Udayavani Hebri correspondent Uday Kumar Shetty, who were elected as Vice Presidents. The newly elected Secretaries are Jayakiran correspondent Umesh Marpalli, Karavali Ale reporter Suresh Ermal, and Udayavani journalist T. Lokesh Acharya Tekkate.

The Executive Committee Members include Prajwal Amin (TV9), Janardhan Kodavoor (Sanje Prabha), Chetan Matpady (Public TV), Muhammad Sharif (Vartha Bharati), Ramananda Ajekaru (Kannada Prabha), Yogeesh Kumbashi (Vartha Bharati), B. Raghavendra Pai (Vijayavani), K. Chandrashekar (Chalukya), Pramod Suvarna (Namma Kudla), Vijay Acharya (Uchila Udayavani), Praveen Muddur (Udayavani), Mohan Udupa (Vijaya Karnataka), and Sukumara Muniyalu (Prajavani).

The association has successfully completed its elections, marking a new chapter for media professionals in Udupi.

Farmer's cardamom crops destroyed by forest staff

MADIKERI

In Kodagu district, forest department personnel have once again caused distress to farmers by destroying crops. In Bettatturu village, farmer Ponnappa's cardamom and coffee plantation was damaged by forest staff, leaving him devastated.

Ironically, the same department had issued ownership certificates for the two-and-a-half-acre plantation to his family in 2011.

Despite farmers' protests over the past two months, the forest department continued its destructive actions, sparking widespread anger among local agricultural communities. A farmers' protest committee visited the site to show support and demanded the immediate suspension of the officials responsible for destroying the crops. This incident highlights ongoing conflicts between forest authorities and farmers over land and cultivation rights in the region.

Two boys drown while swimming in lake at Hundiganala village

HASSAN

A wave of grief swept through Hundiganala village in Arsikere taluk, Hassan district, after two boys drowned while swimming in a lake on Sunday afternoon. The victims, identified as Vijay Kumar and Sujan, lost their lives while enjoying a holiday with friends.

According to reports, five children from the village had gone to swim in the nearby pond to spend their Sunday. However, tragedy struck when Vijay Kumar and Sujan accidentally ventured into the deep waters and drowned before help could reach them. The incident left the entire village in mourning, as residents gathered near the site, shocked by the sudden loss of two young lives.

Upon receiving information, police and fire brigade personnel from Javagal police station immediately rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation. The bodies of the boys were later retrieved from the lake after an intense search effort by the emergency team.

Authorities have registered a case at Javagal police station, and an investigation is underway to determine the exact circumstances leading to the drowning. Police have urged parents and guardians to remain cautious and advise children against swimming in unmonitored or deep water bodies, especially during holidays.

The tragic deaths of the two children have cast a pall of sorrow over Hundiganala, with villagers expressing condolences to the bereaved families and calling for better safety awareness measures around local lakes and ponds to prevent such incidents in the future.

PRIVACY BREACH ASSAULT

Man assaulted for circulating photos of ex-girlfriend

CHIKKABALLAPUR

In a shocking incident, a man was brutally assaulted after he allegedly shared private photos of his former girlfriend across their village. The incident took place in Katamachanahalli village, Chintamani taluk of Chikkaballapur district.

According to reports, the accused has been identified as Anand, a resident of Nallaguttapalli village. Though Anand is married, he had been in a live-in relationship with a woman named Shravani, who was unmarried at the time. Their relationship reportedly ended about six months ago.

Recently, Shravani married another man two months ago. Upset by her marriage, Anand is said to have shared several photos taken during their relationship on social media and among villagers, which soon went viral.

Angered by this act, Shravani's relatives confronted Anand and allegedly beat him severely. Following the incident, both parties approached the police with complaints. Based on Shravani's complaint, the Chintamani Rural Police have registered a case against Anand for violating her privacy and defaming her reputation. In response, Anand has also lodged a counter-complaint against Shravani's relatives, accusing them of assault.

The incident has sparked outrage and discussions in the locality over privacy violations and the misuse of personal content after failed relationships. Police are investigating both complaints and have assured that strict action will be taken against those found guilty.

Authorities have also urged people to exercise caution in sharing personal photos or videos, warning that digital misuse and defamation carry serious legal consequences under cyber and criminal laws.

QUICK READ

Sankeen re-elected as district prez of KUWJ

Yadgir

In the recent election for the District Union of Working Journalists' Association (KUWJ), Mallappa Sankeen was re-elected as district president for the second consecutive term. The election, held at the District Patrika Bhavan on Sunday, saw a spirited contest between Sankeen and his rival Dinesh V.C. Voting took place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with 137 of the 142 eligible members casting their votes. Sankeen secured 73 votes, defeating Dinesh V.C., who received 64 votes, winning by a margin of 9 votes. Speaking after his victory, Sankeen expressed gratitude to his journalist colleagues for their trust and support. He pledged to work diligently to meet their expectations and contribute to the association's growth and development. The election reflects strong participation and engagement among the district's journalist community.

Women writers' social commitment is declining: Dr. Sharifa

Bengaluru

Senior writer Dr. Sharifa expressed concern over the diminishing social commitment and principled focus among contemporary women writers compared to those from the 1970s. Speaking at the 6th State-Level Women's Kannada Literature and Culture Conference, organized by the Buddha-Basava-Gandhi Cultural Trust at Seshadripuram College, she noted that for the past five decades, women authors have effectively captured social and cultural issues in their poetry, stories, and novels. Dr. Sharifa highlighted that literature thrives when men and women collaborate for societal benefit. Modern women writers are challenging traditional notions that confine women's literature to domestic themes. They are breaking patriarchal boundaries, addressing gender inequalities, and adopting a humane perspective in their work. The event saw participation from council member S.L. Bhojegowda, lawyer Krishnamurthy, poetess Pushpa, and trust president Dr. S. Ramalingeshwara, among others.

CM vows action on Parappana Agrahara jail privileges

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah addresses prison VVIP privileges, strict action, elections, farmer relief, and community representation

Continued from page 1

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah addressed the media at Davanagere heliport regarding reports of luxurious privileges being extended to inmates at Parappana Agrahara prison. He stated that concerned officials were on leave at the time the incidents came to light. A high-level meeting led by the Home Minister has been scheduled for tomorrow to review the matter. Siddaramaiah emphasized that strict action will be taken against those found responsible, and measures will be implemented to ensure such incidents do not recur in the future.

On questions related to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's comments that the organization should have been registered during British rule, the Chief Minister said the government has not issued any orders to ban RSS. While associations are required to obtain permission from district authorities, the government will not respond to Bhagwat's statements.

Regarding taluk and district panchayat elections, Siddaramaiah said these will proceed under court orders. He also addressed concerns raised by sugar factory owners about compliance with government directives, affirming that all owners must follow the orders, and action will be taken against those who fail to comply.

On the topic of crop damage due to excessive rainfall, the CM noted that approximately 11 lakh hectares were affected, and the central government will determine compensation rates to support farmers.

Finally, Siddaramaiah addressed questions on representation for the Valmiki community in the cabinet, stating that the matter will be considered during the next cabinet reshuffle.

This statement reflects the government's commitment to strict administrative accountability, enforcement of directives, and addressing issues affecting farmers and marginalized communities, while clarifying the position on sensitive social and political matters.

K'taka to recruit 18,000 teachers soon: Bangarappa

MADIKERI

Karnataka to recruit 18,000 teachers soon, strengthening government and aided schools across the state

Karnataka School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa announced that a total of 18,000 teachers will soon be recruited across the state, including 12,000 for government schools and 6,000 for aided schools. Speaking at the Government Senior Primary School in Beluru Kusuburu village, Monday Pete, Kodagu, the minister highlighted the state government's initiatives under Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to strengthen government schools. As part of these efforts, pre-primary education (LKG and UKG) has been introduced in schools.

The government has approved the establishment of around 900 KPS schools across each gram panchayat area, with free transportation facilities provided for students. Focus is also on improving the quality of education in government schools, constructing new buildings where necessary, providing free electricity, and conducting special evening classes to enhance learning outcomes. Overall, significant attention is being given to the development and improvement of government schools across Karnataka.

Currently, the state has 46,000 government schools and 57,000 aided schools, educating approximately 1.16 crore students from LKG to 12th grade across government, aided, and unaided schools. Minister Bangarappa emphasized that education is key to national development, and the government is prioritizing infrastructure and quality education despite existing challenges.

Additionally, CCTV cameras are being installed to improve monitoring during SSLC and PUC-II exams. Measures such as staggered exams with a 25-day interval have been implemented to avoid disruption in students' academic progress. This year, around 1.16 lakh students have successfully passed their examinations.

Speaking at the event, MLA Dr. Manthar Gowda stressed that teachers hold a critical responsibility in shaping students' futures, and everyone must work together to support the development of government schools in the state.

Lawmakers urge immediate renovation of KC valley canal

SRINIVASPUR

Legislator G.K. Venkateshiva Reddy has strongly urged the immediate renovation of the KC Valley water canal, describing the ongoing works as unscientific and responsible for flooding farmlands. On Sunday, he inspected waterlogged lands in Kuduvanahalli village within the Srinivaspur assembly constituency and addressed a public meeting afterward.

He emphasized that the canal from S. Agrahara and Muduvadi lake to Manighatta needs an eight-foot-high embankment and a thirty-foot width to ensure smooth water flow. Venkateshiva Reddy spoke with the Principal Secretary of the Minor Irrigation Department over the phone, who assured a site visit and swift measures to compensate affected farmers.

Reddy criticized the Congress government for allocating only half of the promised Rs. 50 crore for local development, resulting in legal interventions. He stressed that full funding is essential to provide necessary infrastructure to every village.

MP M. Mallesh Babu noted that lands affected by KC Valley water were inspected and confirmed damage due to a poorly maintained canal. He added that the second-phase project has design flaws, worsening flooding during heavy rains.

JDS leader C.M.R. Srinath echoed the concerns, highlighting that the absence of proper cleaning and maintenance before water release has caused enormous crop losses. Contaminated water is affecting humans, livestock, birds, and insects, resulting in diseases and reduced yields. He demanded the canal be scientifically cleared and repaired.

Venkateshiva Reddy assured that damaged roads in the region would be repaired within three months. Local leaders and community representatives, including Sheshapur Gopal, B. Krishnareddy, and Rakesh, joined the inspection and public meeting, reinforcing demands for urgent action to restore the canal and protect farmers' livelihoods. The inspection and review underscored the critical need for timely intervention, proper maintenance, and scientific management of the KC Valley canal to prevent further agricultural and environmental damage.

Pejawar seer inaugurates Geethotsava at Sri Krishna Matha

UDUPI

The grand Bruhath Geethotsava, organized at Sri Krishna Matha until December 7, was inaugurated by His Holiness Sri Vishwaprasannatirtha Pejawar Swamiji in the temple's royal courtyard. Addressing devotees, the seer emphasized that the Bhagavad Gita is a timeless guide, capable of dispelling ignorance and offering direction in life. He urged everyone to internalize Krishna's teachings to overcome attachment and perform their duties responsibly, highlighting that Gita's wisdom serves as a universal guide in all circumstances.

Sri Vishwaprasannatirtha also honored Pejawar Seer with the Shri Rama Seva Durandhara award, recognizing his contributions to spiritual guidance. He praised the life of Sri Sugunendratirtha Swamiji of Parayaaya Puttige Matha, describing him as a living embodiment of Gita's teachings, guiding the world with its wisdom.

The seer stressed that the Gita is a universal scripture that transcends religion and directs humanity toward righteousness. "Every individual can engage with the Gita, reflect on their inner thoughts, and seek answers through its teachings," he added.

Central and State Govts have neglected beedi workers: Balakrishna Shetty

UDUPI

J. Balakrishna Shetty, president of the Karnataka State Beedi Federation, has alleged that both the central and state governments are neglecting beedi workers. He stated that corporate companies and capitalists are focused on increasing their wealth at the expense of workers. He was speaking at the inauguration of the 8th Udupi District Beedi Workers' Conference, organized by the Udupi District Beedi Workers' Federation (CITU) at the Ajjarakadu Vima Workers' Union office hall.

Shetty highlighted that beedi owners are delaying payment of government-mandated allowances and minimum wages. While the government has set the minimum wage at Rs. 301, owners are reportedly paying only Rs. 287 or less. He warned that workers would have to launch decisive struggles in the coming days to claim their rights.

Shetty also criticized efforts to divert workers from their struggles under the guise of religion, which weakens their movements. He emphasized that if millions of workers protest on the streets, all issues would be resolved.

He added that representatives, MLAs, and MPs have not spoken about beedi workers in the assembly. Over 3 lakh workers are employed in Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts, and their condition is alarming. He announced an indefinite night protest in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office starting November 24, followed by a sit-in at the Assistant Commissioner's office on November 28.

Key attendees included Federation Vice-President Balkis, Karkala Taluk Beedi Workers' Union President Sunitha Shetty, Janavadi Mahila Sangha Secretary Sheelavati, and Udupi Beedi Union President Nalini S. The conference was presided over by Federation President Mahabal Vadeyar Hobli, with Secretary Umesh Kundar presenting the welcome address and report, and Treasurer Kaviraj S. Kanchan coordinating the program. During the conference, a new 15-member committee for the next three years was elected for the Udupi District Beedi Workers' Federation. Umesh Kundar was elected President, Kaviraj S. Kanchan as General Secretary, and Balkis as Treasurer, all unanimously.

Bike-taxi driver arrested for harassing female passenger

BENGALURU

Police have arrested a bike-taxi driver for allegedly harassing a female passenger. The accused has been identified as Lokesh (28), a resident of Muniyappa Layout, Ullal.

The incident occurred on November 6, and the victim shared details of the harassment on social media. The Bengaluru Police's Social Media Monitoring Team noticed her post and contacted her for further information. Subsequently, a case was registered, and an investigation led to the arrest of Lokesh.

According to the victim, while returning to her paying guest accommodation from Church Street via the bike-taxi, the driver allegedly inappropriately touched her body. When she asked him to stop, he did not comply. The victim stated that the driver's actions appeared intentional. She had also recorded a video of the incident on her mobile phone.

NAME CHANGE

I, **AYAZ PASHA**, S/o. Taj Pasha, Resident of No 378/2,18th Cross M P Main Road Shanthi Nagar Mysuru Dist, 570019, have changed my name to **AYAZ PASHA PANDU**, vide affidavit dated: 09.11.2025 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **AYESHA BEGUM MOHAMMED SHAFI**, W/o. Syed Shahid, Resident of No,4,8th A Cross Kempaiah Block Little Star School Mubarak Nagar J C Nagar Bengaluru Dist, 560006, have changed my name to **AYESHA BEGUM**, vide affidavit dated: 09.11.2025 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

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Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore.

No. FD 25 JS(B&R) 2025 **Bengaluru, November 09, 2025**

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

It is notified for general information that the outstanding balance of **8.22% Karnataka SDL 2025** issued in terms of the Government of **Karnataka,** Finance Department Notification **No. FD 01 BMB 2015 Dated December 04, 2015** will be repaid at par on **December 09, 2025** with interest due up to and including **December 08, 2025.** In the event of a holiday being declared on the aforesaid date by any State Government under the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, the loan will be repaid by the paying offices in that State on the previous working day. **No interest will accrue on the loan from and after December 09, 2025**

2. As per sub-regulation 24 (2) and 24 (3) of Government Securities Regulations, 2007 payment of maturity proceeds to the registered holder of Government Security held in the form of Subsidiary General Ledger or Constituent Subsidiary General Ledger account or Stock Certificate shall be made by a pay order incorporating the relevant particulars of his bank account or by credit to the account of the holder in any bank having facility of receipt of funds through electronic means. For the purpose of making payment in respect of the securities, the original subscriber or the subsequent holders of such a Government Securities, as the case may be, shall submit to the Bank or Treasury and Sub Treasury or branch of State Bank of India, where they are enfaced / registered for payment of interest, as the case may be, the relevant particulars of their bank account.

3. However, in the absence of relevant particulars of bank account / mandate for receipt of funds through electronic means, to facilitate repayment on the due date, holders of **8.22% Karnataka SDL 2025** should tender their securities at the Public Debt Office, 20 days in advance. The securities should be tendered for repayment, duly discharged on the reverse there of as under:

"Received the Principal due on the Certificate".

4. It should be particularly noted that at places where the treasury work is done by a branch of the State Bank of India, the securities, if they are in the form of Stock Certificates, should be tendered at the branch of the bank concerned and not at the Treasury or Sub-Treasury.

5. Holders who wish to receive payment at places other than those where the securities have been enfaced for payment should send them duly discharged to the Public Debt Office concerned by Registered and Insured Post. The Public Debt Office will make payment by issuing a draft payable at any Treasury / Sub- Treasury or branch of State Bank of India conducting Government Treasury work in the State of **Karnataka.**

Sd/- (Dr. P.C Jaffer)
Secretary to Government
(Budget & Resources), Finance Department

DIPR/CP/3660/Zen/2025-26

FOURTH NIVEUS MARATHON

Fourth edition of Niveus Marathon in Mangaluru sees international participation

MANGALURU

Mangaluru hosted the fourth edition of the prestigious Niveus Mangaluru Marathon on Sunday, drawing runners from across India and abroad. Organized by the Mangaluru Runners Club (MRC), the event witnessed participation from over 6,000 athletes, including representatives from Australia, Japan, Denmark, Nigeria, and multiple Indian states.

The marathon featured six categories: the Full Marathon (42.195 km), 20-Miler (32 km), Half Marathon (21.1 km), 10K, 5K, and a 2K Fun Run. Participants ranged from professional athletes and fitness enthusiasts to hobby runners of all ages. The Full Marathon began at 4:15 AM, flagged off by 76-year-old veteran runner and NIT alumnus, Johnson Paul Moylan, who completed his third full marathon at this event.

Other categories were flagged off by key figures, including Neevies Solutions' Marketing Director Abhishek Hegde, Mangaluru City Police Commissioner Sudheer Kumar Reddy, and local dignitaries.

Notable performances included Madhav Saripall, a 68-year-old auto driver, completing the 32 km race in 3:26:07, while Thomas Babi Philip finished the same distance in 2:25:30. In the Full Marathon open category, Nazim from Koonur won the men's division in 2:42:15, and Shreya M from Sulya secured the women's title in 3:22:08. Students participated enthusiastically in the 5K and 10K categories, highlighting widespread community involvement. All finishers were awarded the "Running Tiger" medal, and top performers in each category received prizes.

Niveus Solutions CEO, Suyog Shetty, praised the Mangaluru Runners Club for their relentless efforts, noting the marathon's growth into one of the city's largest community events. Race Director Mehwish Husein emphasized the improved quality and participation each year, while MP Captain Brijesh Chaut lauded Mangaluru's potential to host world-class sporting events. The marathon not only promoted fitness but also showcased the city's organizational and community spirit, setting a benchmark for future editions.

QUICK READ

Kerala govt to hold talks with medical college teachers

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In an attempt to prevent an indefinite strike that could paralyse healthcare services in the government medical colleges, the state Health Department will hold conciliatory talks with the Kerala Government Medical College Teachers' Association (KGMCTA) on Monday. Health Minister Veena George will chair the meeting, which aims to address the long-standing demands of the medical teachers' body and find a negotiated settlement. Officials said on Sunday that the department has already initiated discussions with KGMCTA representatives to resolve key issues related to salary revision, staff shortages.

4-year-old girl sexually assaulted in Bengal

KOLKATA

A four-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted in West Bengal's Hooghly district, after which the BJP criticised the Mamata government for the deteriorating law and order in the state. In a social media post, Union Minister of State for Education and DoNER Sukanta Majumdar highlighted the incident while commenting on the deteriorating law and order in the state. Even a four-year-old girl is not safe in Mamata Banerjee's terrifying, demonic reign. The family members of a four-year-old girl from Tarkeshwar, Hooghly, have alleged that she was kidnapped from her home while she was sleeping and raped.

Gandhi family's history is full of vote chori: Dubey

BHAGALPUR

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey on Sunday took aim at Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, over his recent vote chori allegations and said that the people of Bihar are tired of listening to the statements made by the Congress MP. In an interview, Dubey also criticised Rahul Gandhi for calling on the 'Gen Z' voters to decide Bihar's future accordingly amid the 'vote chori' row and said that the youth will give a befitting response to the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly elections.

Northeast not just a frontier, but nation's forward face: Modi

Responding to an article penned by Union Minister Scindia, the PM highlighted the transformative progress and resilience of the people in the region.

NEW DELHI

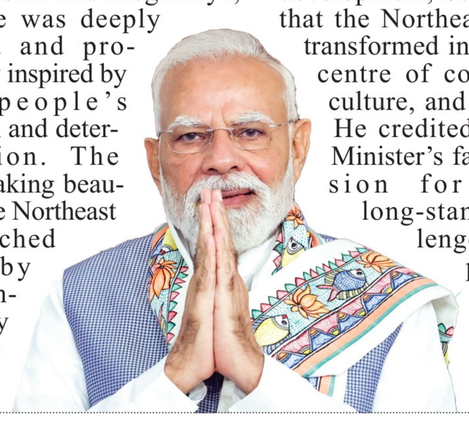
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday lauded India's Northeast region, describing it as not just the country's frontier but its forward face.

Responding to an article penned by Union Minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia, the Prime Minister highlighted the transformative progress and resilience of the people in the region.

In this insightful article, Union Minister JM Scindia shares his experience of visiting the North East, describing its beauty and the indomitable spirit of its people, PM Modi posted on X.

He further observed that Scindia's piece captures how the region, often referred to as Ashtalakshmi, is evolving into India's natural gateway to Southeast Asia.

Scindia, recounting his visit to Assam and Meghalaya, said he was deeply moved and profoundly inspired by the people's warmth and determination. The breathtaking beauty of the Northeast is matched only by the simplicity and indomitable spirit of its people. I return home with renewed resolve to work harder for the region's progress and prosperity, he said.



Underlining the Modi government's focus on regional development, Scindia noted that the Northeast is being transformed into a vibrant centre of connectivity, culture, and commerce. He credited the Prime Minister's farsighted vision for turning long-standing challenges into opportunities, enabling a resurgence of hope and growth across the region. Highlighting the shift from a landlocked to a land-linked region, the minister said the Northeast now exemplifies inclusive and dignified development.

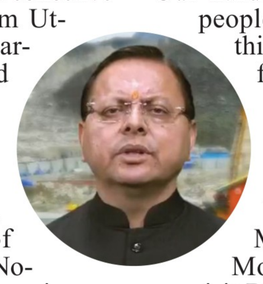
During his visit to Meghalaya, Scindia toured the Mushroom Development Centre in Upper Shillong, which has been leading a quiet revolution in rural livelihoods. Established in 1982 under the North Eastern Council, the centre now produces around 1.5 lakh sawdust blocks annually—each yielding a kilogram of high-value shiitake mushrooms worth up to ₹1,000—boosting rural incomes and local entrepreneurship.

UTTARAKHAND @ 25

CM calls for collective pledge to realise a self-reliant state

DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Sunday extended warm greetings to the people of the state on the occasion of the 25th Foundation Day and called upon them to take a collective pledge to transform Uttarakhand into a harmonious, strong, and self-reliant state.



Uttarakhand, popularly known as Devbhoomi (the land of Gods), was carved out of Uttar Pradesh on November 9, 2000, becoming India's 27th state. The Foundation Day marks not just the birth of a new state but the culmination of a people's movement that envisioned a model of inclusive growth and balanced development.

In a heartfelt video message, CM Dhami said, It is a matter of immense pride that in the last 25 years, Devbhoomi Uttarakhand has achieved significant milestones in health, education, tourism, culture, environmental conservation, and employment. The progress we see today is the result of the determination of our people.

He expressed gratitude to the thousands of protestors whose sacrifices led to the creation of the state. Highlighting Uttarakhand's deep cultural roots, Dhami added, Our hardworking, god-like people have proved that this land is one of infinite possibilities — a land of liberation and wisdom.

Marking the Silver Jubilee celebrations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Dehradun to inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for development projects worth over ₹8,140 crore. These include projects worth ₹930 crore being inaugurated and new initiatives worth ₹7,210 crore across sectors like irrigation, drinking water, energy, urban development, and technical education. PM Modi will also transfer ₹62 crore directly to more than 28,000 farmers under the PM Fasal Bima Yojana, further strengthening Uttarakhand's vision of sustainable and inclusive development, he added.

Triangular showdown in Jubilee Hills as Cong, BRS, BJP set to lock horns

HYDERABAD

The Jubilee Hills constituency in the heart of Telangana's capital is set for a tense by-election showdown, with the ruling Congress and opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) pulling out all the stops to secure a crucial political win.

The bypoll, necessitated by the death of sitting MLA Maganti Gopinath of BRS, has turned into a prestige contest between Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao (KTR).

While the result will not directly alter the Congress government's stability—given its comfortable majority—it carries immense political significance. For Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, a victory is crucial to consolidate his leadership and silence critics within his own party. Conversely, a BRS win could revive the party's morale and signal a comeback after its dismal performance in the Lok Sabha elections.

The Congress has fielded Naveen Yadav, with the Chief Minister and his entire Cabinet actively campaigning in the constituency. The BRS, meanwhile, is banking on sympathy votes by nominating Maganti Sunitha, wife of the late MLA Gopinath.

Adding to the intensity, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is making an aggressive bid to break the Congress-BRS duopoly. Led by Union Minister and Hyderabad MP G. Kishan Reddy, the BJP campaign saw active participation from Union Minister of State Bandi Sanjay Kumar, state party chief Ramchander Rao, and several MPs and MLAs.

The stakes are high for all three parties.

For Congress, it is a battle to affirm its dominance; for BRS, an opportunity to reclaim lost ground; and for BJP, a chance to expand its urban base in Hyderabad's political heartland. The outcome will likely set the tone for Telangana's upcoming local body elections.

MUV-RTC bus collision kills one in Telangana

HYDERABAD

One person was killed and six others injured when a Multi-Utility Vehicle (MUV) hit a Road Transport Corporation (RTC) bus in Telangana's Sangareddy district. The accident occurred near Kavalampet Kandi mandal when the Toofan vehicle hit the RTC bus from behind. The bus was coming to Hyderabad from Sangareddy.

One person died on the spot, and six others were injured in the collision. The deceased was identified as Balaiah, 45.

The injured were admitted to the government hospital at Sangareddy, and the condition of a couple of them is stated to be critical. Police registered a case and took up further investigation. This is the latest in a series of road accidents involving buses in the Telugu states. In another incident, one person was killed and eight others injured when a private bus rammed into a truck on November 4 in Andhra Pradesh's Sri Sathya Sai district,

The accident occurred near Dhamajipalli in Chennakothapalle mandal when the bus belonging to Jabbar Travels hit the truck from behind while negotiating the turn.

A head-on collision between an RTC bus and a tipper truck in Telangana's Rangareddy district claimed 19 lives on November 3. The speeding truck carrying construction material rammed into the bus, which was going to Hyderabad from Tandur. Several passengers were buried under the gravel.

BJP MP slams Telangana CM over remarks linking Cong with Muslims

HYDERABAD

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Nishikant Dubey on Sunday reacted sharply to Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's recent comments equating Congress with Muslims, asserting that the Chief Minister has realized his party has nothing to do with Hindutva and is concerned only about the Muslim community.

Reddy, addressing a corner meeting in Hyderabad's Shaikpet division earlier this week, said, It is only Congress that gave big posts to the minorities.

Congress means Muslims, and Muslims mean Congress. In our government, Hindus and Muslims are all equal.

We don't discriminate. Responding to this, Dubey told, Revanth is a very good friend of ours. He has worked with us. Revanth's pain has come out, and he has understood it.

Congress has nothing to do with Hindutva and only cares about Muslims. He has spoken the truth. Revanth Reddy had further claimed that he won the Kodangal Assembly seat three times with the support of minorities and emphasized that no community faced discrimination under the 20-month Congress rule in Telangana. Reiterating his commitment to minority welfare, Reddy accused the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) of deceiving Muslims and predicted that the party would soon merge with the BJP.

However, his remarks sparked widespread criticism from opposition parties and Muslim groups, who accused him of making condescending statements suggesting that Muslims owe their existence to Congress. The groups termed his reported comment, Congress hai toh Musalman hai, Congress nahi toh aap kuch nahi, as insulting and demanded a public apology.

In response, Reddy clarified that his words were distorted and reaffirmed his secular credentials, stating that he has upheld secular values since entering politics.

Fourth edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam from Dec 2

CHENNAI

The cultural and educational exchange programme between Tamil Nadu and Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), known as the Kashi Tamil Sangamam, will return for its fourth edition from December 2 to 15 this year.

Launched in 2022, the initiative aims to rekindle the age-old civilisational and cultural ties between Tamil Nadu and Kashi (Varanasi), two regions with deep spiritual, linguistic, and educational connections. The first edition, held in 2022, ran for nearly a month and saw enthusiastic participation from scholars, students, artists, and pilgrims from both states.

The third edition, which was originally scheduled for December 2024, was later postponed and conducted between February 15 and 24, 2025.

Officials have confirmed that the upcoming fourth edition will open in Varanasi on December 2, and the concluding ceremony will take place at Rameswaram, symbolically uniting the sacred northern and southern ends of the Indian subcontinent. This year's theme, Learn Tamil, focuses on promoting the richness of the Tamil language and its literary heritage among students from northern states.

Educational institutions in Varanasi and Tamil Nadu will host interactive sessions, language learning workshops, and cultural programmes that explore Tamil's classical status, its contributions to Indian knowledge systems, and its linguistic beauty.

The Kashi Tamil Sangamam forms part of the larger 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative, envisioned by the Centre to strengthen cultural unity and national integration through educational and cultural collaboration between states. The programme has facilitated student exchanges, traditional art exhibitions, spiritual pilgrimages, and research symposiums on shared heritage, including links between Shaivite traditions in Kashi and Tamil temples.

Chouhan set to promote millets in Odisha

NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is set to participate in key programmes in Odisha on Monday, aimed at enhancing farmers' income, ensuring nutritional security, and promoting natural farming practices in the state, an official statement said on Sunday.

Chouhan will attend the inaugural session of the 'Mandia Dibasa (Millet Day)' programme as the Chief Guest at the Convention Centre located in the Lok Seva Bhawan.

He will highlight the Central Government's initiatives to encourage the production, processing, and consumption of millets (Shri Anna/coarse grains) across Odisha and the rest of the country. The event will also feature discussions on the promotion of millets as an instrument for augmenting farmers' income and strengthening the rural economy, according to a statement by agriculture ministry.

After the inauguration, Chouhan will visit the Sadar region of Cuttack district, where he will conduct field visits and hold direct interactions with farmers.

ED raids: BJP flays Trinamool for 'corruption'

KOLKATA

The BJP on Sunday flayed the Trinamool Congress for corruption after a huge amount of cash and luxury cars were recovered from the house of its functionary in the raids by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

BJP's IT cell chief and party's central observer for West Bengal, Amit Malviya, said in an X post, Yet another 'illustrious' face of Trinamool exposed! Ajmal Siddiqui, State Secretary of the Trinamool Minority Cell, has been caught by the Enforcement Directorate for operating a sprawling sex racket and amassing crores through corruption. From his home, the ED recovered stacks of cash and two luxury cars - the spoils of his criminal empire built on women trafficking and illegal liquor trade.

The BJP IT Cell Chief said, Can anyone believe Trinamool's top brass was unaware? Of course not - they're neck-deep in the same filth. This party has turned into a syndicate of traffickers and crooks. The law must catch up with every one of them - now.

60TH RAISING DAY

BSF's Jammu Marathon records massive turnout

JAMMU

The Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF), Daljit Singh Chawdhary, on Sunday flagged off the Jammu marathon.

Organised by the BSF Jammu frontier to commemorate the 60th Raising Day of the paramilitary organisation, the marathon is the first major public event in the Jammu division after Operation Sindoor.

The event is meant to promote physical fitness and a drug-free lifestyle among youth, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from civilians, security personnel and students.

Over 6,000 people from across the country had registered for the marathon covering 42-km, 21-km and 10-km race categories, besides the 5-km run for fun. Some foreigners also took part in the marathon. Many runners were seen holding national flags and chanting slogans in praise of the country and the BSF.

This is the first time that BSF is organising a marathon in Jammu to promote physical fitness and a drug-free India. When we become fitness-conscious, it naturally has a positive impact on our nation. The Prime Minister's Fit India initiative will truly be fulfilled when every citizen adopts a healthy lifestyle, the DG BSF told reporters. Highlighting the BSF's role in Operation Sindoor, DG Chawdhary said the operation was widely hailed and had strengthened public trust in the force.

Many young people are joining the BSF, and this successful marathon is a small, yet meaningful example of how the force remains connected with the public in its mission to make the nation drug-free, he said. The BSF chief said the growing interest in joining the force reflects the increasing faith citizens have in the force.

We will continue to safeguard the country with even greater dedication and zeal. Thanking the people for joining the marathon, the DG said the participants had come from far-off places.

QUICK READ

Nilesh Shah hails India's decade of rapid growth

NEW DELHI

India's remarkable journey from the 10th to the 4th largest economy in just a decade reflects the country's expanding global clout and resilient growth engine, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company (AMC) Managing Director Nilesh Shah has said. Speaking at the Kotak International India Insight Summit in New York, Shah stated that India's economic journey has been driven by strong domestic consumption, a vibrant services sector, and manufacturing expansion, which have collectively enabled the nation to surpass the $4 trillion GDP mark by 2025.

2 Class 11 students fire at classmate with licensed pistol

GURUGRAM

In a shocking incident, two Class 11 students allegedly shot at their classmate using a licensed pistol belonging to the father of one of the accused at a posh housing society in Haryana's Gurugram, police said on Sunday. The victim, a 17-year-old student, is undergoing treatment at a private hospital, while both the accused have been detained by the police. The incident occurred at Central Park Resorts in Sector 48 when one of the accused called the victim to an apartment rented by his father.

Admin refutes reports linking elderly man's murder

MUZAFFARPUR

The Muzaffarpur administration has dismissed several media reports claiming that the murder of an elderly man in the district was linked to voting in the Bihar Assembly elections. The incident occurred late in Patsara Ward 12 of Sakhaura Panchayat under the Hatta police station area, where a 70-year-old man, identified as Shankar Paswan, was beaten to death. According to some media reports, family members of the deceased alleged that Paswan had voted for a particular political party on November 6 and was later threatened by supporters of a rival party for doing so.

UTTARAKHAND @ 25

Modi envisions Uttarakhand as future spiritual capital of world

The PM calls upon the state to make efforts to connect its temples, ashrams, and yoga centres with the Global Centre; promote 'One District, One Festival'

DEHRADUN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing the people of Uttarakhand on the state's 25th Foundation Day, said that the state's true identity lies in its spiritual strength and divine heritage.

If Uttarakhand resolves, it can establish itself as the spiritual capital of the world within the next few years, Modi said, adding that efforts should be made to connect the state's temples, ashrams, and yoga centres with the Global Centre.

Emphasizing the government's Vibrant Villages Programme, he said that every border village in Uttarakhand should become a self-sustaining tourism hub, promoting homestays and local cuisine such as 'Doobke Chudkani,' 'Raot,' 'Arsa,' and 'Jhangore ki Kheer.' This experience will bring tourists back to Uttarakhand again and again, he added.

PM Modi also urged the state to promote its regional festivals—Harela, Phooldei, and Bhitoli—and vibrant fairs such as the Nanda Devi Mela, Jauljeevi Mela, Uttaraayani Mela, and Shravani Mela.

To give these cultural events global recognition, he proposed an initiative called 'One District, One Festival (Ek Jila, Ek Mela)'.

Highlighting the potential of Uttarakhand's hilly districts in horticulture, Modi called for transforming them into hubs for fruit production, focusing on crops like blueberries, kiwis, herbs, and medicinal plants. He stressed empowering MSMEs in sectors like food processing, handicrafts, and organic products. Referring to the growing film and wedding tourism in the state, Modi noted that Uttarakhand's new film policy has simplified shooting permissions.

He urged developing five to seven international-standard wedding destinations as part of his 'Wed in India' campaign.

Earlier, PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth over ₹8,140 crore, including ₹930 crore worth of completed projects.

Assam Rifles conducts advanced drone op training in Manipur

IMPHAL

The Assam Rifles, under the Spear Corps of the Indian Army, conducted a two-day Advanced Mission Integration Training focused on drone operations at the Drone Training Node (DTN) in Chandel, Manipur, officials said on Sunday.

The training, organized in collaboration with IdeaForge, aimed to enhance the operational proficiency of personnel from various units in mission planning, data analysis, and tactical deployment of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS).

In a post on X, the Spear Corps stated, Personnel from multiple units honed their skills in mission integration and drone-based tactical operations, emphasizing the Army's growing focus on leveraging drone technology for both surveillance and logistics in challenging terrains.

Earlier in the day, the Corps also validated drone-based Combat Medical Care operations in forward areas of Arunachal Pradesh, demonstrating the rapid airlifting of critical medical supplies to troops deployed in remote regions. The initiative proved the effectiveness of drones in enhancing battlefield medical logistics and ensuring timely aid to soldiers in difficult-to-reach areas.

In a related outreach effort, the Spear Head Division of the Spear Corps recently flagged off a Pilgrimage Tour for 20 residents from the Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh under Operation Sadbhavana. The tour covered Tuting, Gaya, and Santiniketan spiritually and culturally significant destinations aimed at fostering national integration and cultural understanding among citizens from border areas.

Through such steps, the Indian Army continues to reinforce its commitment to promoting peace, harmony, and development in rural belts.

Yogi warns Bihar voters against infiltrators

ARARIA

'Congress-RJD alliance has turned Bihar, which once gave Nalanda University to the world, into illiteracy and anarchy'

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, while campaigning in Bihar's border district Araria on Sunday, warned people about the threat posed by infiltrators allegedly sneaking into the state.

Addressing a massive rally at Narpatganj High School Stadium, Adityanath said keeping a strict check on infiltration was vital to prevent the Mahagathbandhan's attempt to bring back jungle raj.

In a fiery speech, the UP CM blamed the Congress-RJD alliance for Bihar's decline, claiming it had turned the state into a sick land dominated by mafias and misrule. Bihar, which once gave Nalanda University to the world, was pushed into illiteracy and anarchy by the Congress-RJD alliance. This sacred land of Aryabhatta, Chanakya, and Chandragupta Maurya was spoiled by their patronage of mafias and caste-based politics, he said.

Warning that Narpatganj must not be allowed to become a launching pad for infiltrators, Adityanath alleged that puncture makers were attempting to gain a foothold and disrupt the development process in Bihar — remarks likely to trigger political controversy.

Highlighting the contrast with his state's progress, Adityanath said the UP model had crushed criminal networks and mafias through bulldozer action, reclaiming properties of lawbreakers to build homes for the poor. In Uttar Pradesh, the mafia is bulldozed to pieces, and their mansions are seized for the welfare of the needy, he asserted.

Praising Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for spearheading Bihar's growth, he said, Since 2005, Bihar has seen roads, electricity, schools, hospitals, and clean drinking water projects flourish. Under PM Modi's leadership over the last 11 years, this pace of progress has multiplied. Yogi urged voters to support the NDA.

'Life threat': Tej Pratap Yadav gets Y+ security cover

PATNA

Amid the ongoing Bihar Assembly elections, the Central government has upgraded the security cover of Tej Pratap Yadav, chief of Janshakti Janata Dal and elder son of RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav, to Y+ category.

Pratap, who is contesting from Mahua, had recently written to the Centre and the Prime Minister, alleging a threat to his life and seeking enhanced protection. The Centre has now accepted that request.

When asked by reporters at Patna Airport on Sunday about the upgraded security cover, Tej Pratap appeared displeased and said, Aap log hamesha mere peeche hi padhe rehte ho (You people are always after me). Under the new arrangement, Tej Pratap Yadav will now be guarded by an expanded armed security detail as per the Y+ category protocol.

He further said that his security had been increased because there was a threat to his life. He then left for his campaign schedule.

For the last two days, he has been seen at Patna Airport along with BJP MP Ravi Kishan. Tej Pratap told reporters he would support whoever develops Bihar, while Ravi Kishan said the BJP's doors are always open for devotees of Lord Shiva.

MP CM offers prayers at Maa Janaki Temple, blends faith with politics

SITAMARHI

On the final day of the high-voltage Bihar Assembly election campaign, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav made a spiritually significant stop at the revered Maa Janaki Temple in Sitamarhi — believed to be the birthplace of Goddess Sita.

He offered prayers and sought divine blessings for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)'s success in the upcoming polls.

Speaking to reporters outside the temple, Yadav said, "I have been campaigning relentlessly for NDA candidates across Bihar. Today, on the last day, visiting Maa Janaki's janmabhoomi is both a joy and a profound experience."

Drawing a parallel with Ayodhya's transformation, he said, "When Lord Ram smiles in Ayodhya, joy multiplies."

Udhayanidhi to launch temple service scheme for senior couples

CHENNAI

Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin will inaugurate a distinctive welfare initiative -- the Special Temple Service Scheme -- for senior couples aged 70 and above at the historic Arulmigu Sri Parthasarathyswamy Temple in Triplicane on November 10.

The scheme, aimed at honouring elderly devotees, is being rolled out under the guidance of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin as announced in the State Budget for 2025–26, said Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Minister P.K. Sekarbabu on Sunday.

According to the Minister, the initiative seeks to recognise and celebrate the spiritual devotion of 2,000 senior couples across 20 HR&CE joint commissioner divisions. Each division will host a special temple service for 100 couples, providing them with blessings, honour, and traditional gifts as a mark of reverence.

At the inaugural ceremony in Triplicane, 200 senior couples from the Chennai region will be felicitated in the presence of the Deputy Chief Minister.

Each couple will receive a traditional gift pack worth Rs 2,500 containing a dhoti, saree, turmeric, kumkum, bangles, a mirror, fruits, betel leaves, and a framed photograph of the temple deity. The scheme embodies our cultural ethos of gratitude and respect toward the elderly who have dedicated their lives to faith and family, Sekarbabu said

CM Stalin to launch Rs 767 cr Pudukkottai projects

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will embark on a one-day visit to Pudukkottai and Tiruchi districts on Monday, where he is slated to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for a host of welfare projects and social infrastructure initiatives aimed at improving public amenities and care services.

According to an official release, CM Stalin will begin his tour in the Pudukkottai district in the morning, where he will lay the foundation stone for several major projects worth an estimated Rs 767 crore.

The event will be held at Mookambigai College of Engineering in Keeranur, where he will also inaugurate a range of completed development works implemented under various State schemes. These projects are expected to enhance connectivity, public infrastructure, and service delivery across the region.

Later in the day, the CM will travel to Tiruchi district to inaugurate an Anbu Solai, a modern-day day-care facility for senior citizens designed to promote physical, emotional, and social well-being.

Dampa bypoll: Parties showcase strength as campaigning ends

AIZAWL

More than a month-long hectic campaign for the November 11 bye-election to Mizoram's Dampa Assembly constituency ended on Sunday.

On the final day of campaigning, all political parties, including the ruling Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) and the main opposition Mizo National Front (MNF), held massive rallies and conducted door-to-door campaigns to influence voters in the state.

Besides state leaders of various parties, BJP leaders and Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju (Union Parliamentary and Minority Affairs Minister) and Jitendra Singh (Union Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences) also visited Mizoram and campaigned for their party's candidate.

Before the announcement of the poll schedule by the Election Commission of India (ECI) on October 6, both the ruling and opposition parties had declared their candidates and launched their campaigns in the politically significant constituency.

A total of five candidates are in the fray for the Dampa bypoll. The ruling ZPM has fielded Mizo singer and preacher Vanlalsailova, while the opposition MNF has nominated its party's Vice-President and former Health Minister R Lalthangliana. The Congress has fielded its State Vice-President and former Transport Minister John Rotluangliana, while the BJP has nominated Lalhmingthanga. Former Chief Minister Brigadier T. Sailo's party, the People's Conference, has fielded its Vice-President K Zahmingthanga. Election officials said on Sunday that several polling parties had departed for six polling stations -- Zopui, Silsury-I, Silsury-II, Silsury-III, Hnahva, and Lianbuang.

Within the Dampa Assembly constituency, there are a total of 41 polling stations, and by Monday morning, polling parties for the remaining 35 polling stations will leave for poll duty.

The Mizoram Election Department stated that in accordance with the guidelines and instructions issued by the Election Commission regarding the conduct of elections, all presiding officers, polling personnel, sector officers, and security personnel involved in the Dampa.

93rd AIR FORCE DAY

Rafale, Sukhoi jets dazzle Guwahati skies

GUWAHATI

The skies over the Brahmaputra came alive on Sunday as the Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted a spectacular flypast featuring its frontline aircraft, including Tejas, Rafale, and the Suryakiran Aerobatic Team, during an air show in Guwahati.

The event, held at Lachit Ghat, formed part of the IAF's 93rd-anniversary celebrations, drawing huge crowds who cheered the breathtaking aerial displays.

The air show was attended by Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, and IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, who applauded the pilots' exceptional coordination and precision. The air display served as a fitting tribute to the IAF's nine decades of commitment and service to the nation, showcasing its technological advancement and operational excellence.

According to officials, 58 aircraft participated in the show, presenting 25 formations that included both fighter jets and transport planes. Among the highlights were dedicated formations of aircraft that took part in Operation Sindoor, underlining the Air Force's combat legacy. The Sarang Team also performed for the first time since its helicopters were grounded after an incident in Gujarat, marking a strong comeback.

The participating aircraft flew from airbases in Tezpur, Hasimara, Guwahati, and other nearby locations.

The fleet featured a wide array of aircraft and helicopters, including Su-30 MKI, Mi-17, Apache, ALH Mk-1, C-295, C-130J Super Hercules, An-32, AEW&C, MiG-29, IL-78, Mirage, Hawk, Jaguar, C-17, and Harvard.

Earlier, on October 8, the IAF marked its anniversary with a ceremonial parade at Air Force Station Hindon, Ghaziabad, reviewed by the IAF Chief and attended by senior officers and former Air Chiefs, reaffirming the Force's enduring spirit of excellence and national pride.

QUICK READ

3 dead as seas batter Spanish's Tenerife island

Madrid

Powerful waves struck the Spanish island of Tenerife on Saturday, leaving three people dead and 15 injured, according to emergency services. One man was airlifted by a rescue helicopter after falling into the sea at La Guancha in northern Tenerife but was declared dead on arrival at the hospital. In a separate incident at El Cabezo beach in the south, another man was found floating in the water and could not be revived by rescuers. At Puerto de la Cruz, a woman suffered a fatal heart attack after a massive wave dragged 10 people into the sea. Three others were seriously injured and hospitalized.

Hundreds missing after migrant boat sinks near Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur

A migrant boat carrying around 300 people from Buthidaung, Myanmar, sank near the Malaysia–Thailand border, leaving hundreds missing, Malaysian authorities said on Sunday. Ten survivors and one body have been recovered so far, with rescue efforts still underway off Langkawi Island. According to First Admiral Romli Mustafa of the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, search operations continued three days after the tragedy. The survivors include men from Myanmar, Bangladesh, and the Rohingya community, while the deceased was identified as a Rohingya woman. Officials said the passengers had transferred from a large vessel to three smaller boats near the border to evade detection.

Philippines Evacuates 900,000 due to Typhoon Fung-wong

Isabela

Nearly 900,000 people have been evacuated across the Philippines as Super Typhoon Fung-wong, locally known as Uwan, began battering Luzon with torrential rain and powerful winds. The storm, the 21st to hit the country this year, comes as the nation still recovers from Typhoon Kalmaegi, which killed 224 people. With sustained winds of 185 km/h and gusts reaching 230 km/h, Fung-wong is expected to make landfall in Aurora province late Sunday.

4 dead, 13 injured after street racer crashes into Tampa Bar

A police chase in Tampa turned deadly as a speeding driver crashed

TAMPA, FLORIDA

A high-speed police chase turned tragic early Saturday when a reckless driver lost control of his vehicle and crashed into an outdoor patio at Bradley's on 7th, a popular Tampa bar. The collision killed four people and injured 13 others, according to the Tampa Police Department.

Authorities said the 22-year-old driver, who had been spotted street racing earlier, was being pursued after refusing to stop for officers. The Florida Highway Patrol attempted a PIT manoeuvre — a method used to halt fleeing vehicles — but the effort failed. Soon after, the driver sped into the city streets, lost control, and slammed into the bar's crowded patio.

Three victims died instantly, while a fourth succumbed to injuries at the hospital. Of the 13 injured, two remain in critical condition, seven are stable, two have been discharged, and two were treated at the scene. Police confirmed that the suspect is now in custody, and an investigation is underway.

Officials clarified that there is no indication the crash was a targeted attack, despite Bradley's being a well-known LGBTQ venue.

Tampa Police Chief Lee Bercaw called the incident a "senseless tragedy" caused by reckless driving. "Our hearts go out to the victims' loved ones. We are committed to seeking justice for those affected," he said.

Mayor Jane Castor described the crash as "devastating," noting that the entire city is mourning the loss. "Families are grieving, first responders are hurting, and our city feels this loss deeply," she wrote on X.

The tragic event has reignited debate over the use of high-risk police pursuit tactics like the PIT manoeuvre, which federal reports have previously warned could endanger bystanders.

Hamas vows not to surrender fighters in Rafah

GAZA

Hamas fighters in Rafah refuse to surrender amid Egyptian mediation efforts, warning that Israel's actions risk collapsing Gaza's fragile ceasefire

Hamas fighters entrenched in the Israeli-held Rafah region of Gaza have vowed not to surrender, declaring that laying down arms "does not exist in the dictionary of the Al-Qassam Brigades." The group's armed wing issued the statement on Sunday amid growing diplomatic pressure to end the standoff that threatens to collapse the month-old U.S.-brokered ceasefire.

Egyptian mediators have reportedly proposed that remaining fighters in Rafah surrender their weapons to Egypt in exchange for safe passage and share details of tunnels to be destroyed. U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff described the plan, which involves around 200 Hamas fighters, as a potential test for broader Gaza disarmament efforts.

Rejecting the proposal, Hamas accused Israel of provoking clashes and urged mediators to act swiftly to preserve the truce and prevent further bloodshed. "Mediators must ensure the ceasefire continues and stop the enemy from exploiting the situation to target civilians," the statement read.

Rafah has witnessed the deadliest violence since the ceasefire began on October 10, with Israeli strikes killing dozens of Palestinians after three Israeli soldiers died in attacks blamed on Hamas — which the group denies.

Separately, Hamas said it would hand over the body of Israeli soldier Hadar Goldin, who died in Gaza, as part of an ongoing exchange. So far, Hamas has returned 23 of 28 deceased hostages, while Israel has repatriated 300 Palestinian bodies.

Gaza's health ministry reported another Palestinian killed on Sunday in an Israeli airstrike in Khan Younis. Since October 7, Hamas-led attacks have killed 1,200 Israelis and taken 251 hostages, while Israel's retaliatory operations have left nearly 69,000 Palestinians dead, according to local health officials.

Afghan police seize 170 kg of opium poppy, arrest two smugglers

KABUL

Afghan counter-narcotics forces have seized 170 kilograms of opium poppy and arrested two suspected smugglers in the western province of Nimroz, provincial police spokesman Gul Mohammad Qudrat said on Sunday.

The operation was conducted in the Zanjer Sharqi area along the Zaranj–Delaram highway, targeting a trafficking network operating in the region, Xinhua News Agency reported. The suspects were taken into custody, and the seized drugs have been transferred for further investigation.

Authorities said the Afghan government has intensified its crackdown on illegal narcotics, focusing on eradicating poppy cultivation and dismantling smuggling networks across the country.

Similar operations have recently been carried out in other provinces. On November 4, police in Ghazni seized 225 kg of opium hidden in a car, though the driver managed to escape. In Paktia, a drug processing laboratory was destroyed, while security forces in Badakhshan eradicated 400 acres of illegal poppy farms in multiple districts.

Officials reaffirmed their commitment to enforcing the nationwide ban on poppy and hashish cultivation imposed in April 2022, emphasizing that no tolerance will be shown toward those involved in drug trafficking or production.

Over 12,000 Afghan refugees were forcibly expelled from Iran and Pakistan in a single day, officials confirmed

Over 12,000 Afghan refugees deported from Iran and Pak

KABUL

More than 12,000 Afghan refugees were forcibly deported from Iran and Pakistan in a single day, Taliban deputy spokesperson Hamdullah Fitrat announced on Sunday. According to a statement shared on X, 2,098 families — totaling 12,455 individuals — were sent back to Afghanistan through multiple border crossings, including Spin Boldak in Kandahar, Bahramcha in Helmand, Torkham in Nangarhar, Islam Qala in Herat, and Pul-i-Abresham in Nimroz, Pajhwok Afghan News reported.

Fitrat stated that some of the deportees were transported to their home provinces, while 2,051 received humanitarian aid. Additionally, telecommunication companies distributed 1,652 SIM cards to refugees returning from Iran and Pakistan to help them reconnect with families and local authorities.

The latest deportations come amid mounting fears and worsening conditions for Afghan refugees in Pakistan. In October, several refugees expressed alarm over police raids, arrests, and forced evictions. Reports indicate that Pakistani authorities have issued warnings in mosques, declaring that anyone providing accommodation or assistance to undocumented Afghans would face criminal charges.

Many deported Afghans, including women, children, and the elderly, have reportedly been detained in overcrowded facilities for over two weeks under harsh conditions. Refugees have appealed to the Pakistani government to halt demolitions of their shelters and delay deportations until winter ends, citing the extreme cold and lack of housing.

Migrant rights activist Nazar Nazari urged diplomatic engagement between Kabul and Islamabad to prevent further forced deportations. He emphasized the need for coordination with international organizations to provide essential relief, including shelter, food, and medical aid. "Humane and well-managed repatriation," Nazari said, "can only be achieved through cooperation and sustained support for the returning refugees."

Third body found after deadly power plant tower collapse

ULSAN

The body of another worker was recovered on Sunday from the debris of a collapsed boiler tower at a thermal power plant in Ulsan, raising the death toll from the accident to three.

The 60-metre-tall boiler tower, belonging to the Ulsan branch of the state-run Korea East-West Power Co., collapsed last Thursday during demolition work. Seven workers were trapped when the structure gave way.

Rescue teams recovered the body of a 44-year-old man on Sunday morning, following the retrieval of two victims on Friday. Authorities said the man likely died Friday morning while awaiting rescue under the wreckage. Two workers are still unaccounted for and presumed dead, while officials continue searching for the remaining trapped individuals.

The boiler tower, which had been in operation for four decades, was being dismantled after being shut down in 2021. Officials said the structure had been deliberately weakened before the collapse occurred.

Land Minister Kim Yun-duk visited the accident site on Thursday night and urged rescuers to intensify recovery efforts. "The government will provide full support to ensure the victims are rescued as quickly as possible," Kim said.

UK sends military aid to Belgium amid rising drone disruptions

LONDON

The United Kingdom has deployed defence experts and advanced equipment to Belgium to assist in tackling a surge in drone activity that has caused major airport disruptions. The move follows repeated drone sightings over airports and military bases across Belgium in recent days.

According to Britain's Chief of Defence Staff, Richard Knighton, the Belgian armed forces requested support after drones were spotted flying over key areas, including Brussels and Liège airports. These incidents led to several flight diversions and temporary shutdowns, severely impacting air traffic. "The defence secretary and I agreed last week to send our personnel and equipment to Belgium," Knighton told the BBC, though he did not specify the type or scale of assistance.

European airports, including in Sweden and Germany, have also reported similar drone-related disruptions in the past week. Authorities are still investigating the source of the interference, with no group claiming responsibility so far. Knighton mentioned that while the identity of the culprits remains unclear, the incidents align with broader patterns of "hybrid warfare" seen in recent years.

US sanctions official says time is right to cut Iran's Hezbollah funding

ISTANBUL

The United States believes now is the right time to cut Iran's financial support to Hezbollah and push the group to disarm, said John Hurley, the U.S. Treasury's Undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence. Hurley stated that Iran has funneled nearly $1 billion to Hezbollah this year despite severe Western sanctions on its economy.

Speaking during his visit to the Middle East, Hurley said Washington's "maximum pressure" strategy aims to curb Tehran's regional influence, especially in Lebanon, where Hezbollah's strength has diminished after Israel's military campaign in 2023–24. "There's a moment in Lebanon now. If we can get Hezbollah to disarm, the Lebanese people can reclaim their country," he told Reuters in Istanbul.

The U.S. recently sanctioned two individuals accused of financing Hezbollah through money exchange networks. Hurley emphasized that limiting Iranian funding is essential to weakening the group's grip on Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Israel continues to launch airstrikes in southern Lebanon despite a year-old ceasefire, saying Hezbollah is rebuilding its military capabilities. The Lebanese government has pledged to disarm all militias, though Hezbollah, which also holds political power, refuses to give up its weapons completely.

Iran, facing renewed U.N. sanctions and economic turmoil, has turned toward China and Russia for support.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

8		6	3	5		4	7	
	3			6	7	8	1	
2	1		8	9			3	
4			1				5	7
	7	1	5		6	3		4
3		5	4	7			2	1
7	5				2	1		8
1	4		7	8				5
	8	2		1			4	3

5	9	8	3	4	2	7	6	1
1	4	7	6	8	5	2	3	9
2	6	3	7	1	9	8	4	5
9	7	1	5	2	3	6	8	4
6	5	4	9	7	8	1	2	3
8	3	2	4	6	1	9	5	2
3	2	9	1	5	6	4	7	8
4	1	6	8	3	7	5	9	2
7	8	5	2	9	4	3	1	6

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

SAUDI'S FIRM STANCE

Saudi Arabia stands firm on Palestinian statehood

DUBAI

Saudi Arabia has made it clear that it will not move forward with normalising relations with Israel unless there is a credible roadmap toward the creation of a Palestinian state. The statement comes ahead of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's (MbS) scheduled meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House on November 18.

Despite Trump's confidence that Riyadh will soon join the Abraham Accords, Saudi officials have privately informed Washington that their stance remains unchanged. "There can be no agreement without progress toward Palestinian statehood," said two Gulf sources, stressing the kingdom's commitment to a two-state solution.

The Crown Prince's visit, his first to Washington since the 2018 killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, is expected to focus primarily on defence and economic cooperation. Both nations aim to finalise a strategic defence pact that expands military collaboration and technology sharing, though it falls short of a full treaty. The proposed deal would strengthen U.S. security guarantees for Riyadh while allowing for future upgrades into a more binding treaty.

Analysts say MbS will likely use his meeting with Trump to seek stronger U.S. backing for Palestinian sovereignty. "He won't consider formal ties with Israel unless there is a credible path to a Palestinian state," noted Jonathan Panikoff, a former U.S. intelligence officer.

Saudi Arabia's stance has hardened following Israel's devastating Gaza offensive and the widespread anger across the Arab world. Officials insist any normalisation must be part of a broader peace framework, not just an extension of the Abraham Accords.

Meanwhile, the defence deal aims to cement America's military role in the Gulf, expand arms sales, and restrict Saudi-China defence ties. Riyadh believes addressing its national security needs is essential before any regional diplomatic realignment, including ties with Israel.

QUICK READ

NCLT clears Suzuki Gujarat merger plan

New Delhi

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the merger of Suzuki Motor Gujarat with its parent company, Maruti Suzuki India. A two-member bench in Delhi cleared the joint petition filed by both companies, setting April 1, 2025, as the official date for the merger. The tribunal noted that the move benefits the companies, their shareholders, employees, and creditors, and found no legal hurdles. Maruti Suzuki India, the country's largest carmaker, will now absorb its Gujarat-based unit, streamlining operations. Experts say this step could improve efficiency and strengthen Maruti Suzuki's position in India's competitive automobile market.

Godrej Properties eyes strong FY26 sales target

New Delhi

Godrej Properties is on track to meet or even surpass its pre-sales target of Rs 32,500 crore for FY26, driven by strong housing demand, said Executive Chairperson Pirojsha Godrej. In an interview, he expressed confidence that the company will achieve its goals in sales bookings, customer collections, project deliveries, new launches, and land acquisitions. Commenting on the second-quarter performance, he said the real estate market is performing steadily, and demand remains attractive. Experts suggest that the positive trend reflects rising buyer confidence and a healthy property market. Godrej Properties aims to leverage this momentum to expand its footprint across India.

KOSPI faces record foreign investor sell-off

Seoul

South Korea's KOSPI index saw its largest weekly foreign sell-off in history in the first week of November, with investors offloading 7.26 trillion won (US$4.98 billion) amid profit-taking and AI stock concerns. The index jumped above 4,200 early in the week but fell sharply, closing below 4,000 on Friday. Samsung Electronics and SK hynix alone accounted for over 70% of sales. Analysts cite Wall Street losses, a weak Korean won, and the U.S. federal shutdown as key factors. The market is expected to stay in a consolidation phase as investor confidence remains cautious.

InCred holdings files confidential IPO papers

New Delhi

InCred Holdings, part of NBFC InCred Financial Services, has filed confidential preliminary papers with Sebi for a proposed IPO, aiming to raise Rs 3,000-4,000 crore. The company submitted its draft red herring prospectus to Sebi and stock exchanges, signaling its plans to list on the main board. Founded by Bhupinder Singh, InCred Group is seeking market funds following a strong FY25 performance and a diversified lending portfolio, including personal, student, MSME, secured business loans, and loans to financial institutions. Experts say the IPO could strengthen the company's capital base and support its growth ambitions across multiple loan segments in India.

CII moots twin-arm govt-backed fund to boost India's growth

India's strategic arm secures overseas energy, minerals, frontier technologies, and logistics to ensure self-reliant global resources

NEW DELHI

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has proposed the creation of an India Development and Strategic Fund (IDSF) to strengthen India's long-term growth and global economic position.

The fund would be sovereign-backed and professionally managed to support both domestic and international investments vital for the nation's future.

According to CII, the fund will have two parts — a Developmental Investment Arm and a Strategic Investment Arm. The developmental arm would focus on financing key areas like infrastructure, clean

energy, logistics, MSMEs, education, healthcare, and urban development. It would invest in long-term projects and attract global investors, including pension and sovereign funds. The CII also suggested expanding the existing National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) to serve this purpose.

The strategic arm would secure overseas assets important for India's economy and security. These include energy projects, critical minerals such as lithium and cobalt, frontier technologies like AI and semiconductors, and key logistics networks. This approach aims to ensure India owns critical global resources instead of depending on others.

'Fund should come from govt'

CII estimates that the IDSF could grow to a massive $1.3–$2.6 trillion by 2047, matching leading global funds. The initial funding could come from government assets, infrastructure revenues, and green or diaspora bonds.

'Fund should remain under govt control'

CII emphasized that the fund should remain under government control but be managed by experts with transparency. CII's Director General Chandrajit Banerjee said the fund would help finance India's goals in infrastructure, energy, and technology beyond what annual budgets can support.

Bearish candle suggests selling pressure; Nifty consolidates with resistance 25,600–25,700, support 25,300–25,400

Stock markets likely to stay in consolidation phase

MUMBAI

The Indian stock market is expected to remain in a sideways or consolidating phase this week, as equity indices show mild selling pressure at higher levels. Analysts say this trend is visible in the weekly charts, reflecting cautious investor sentiment amid ongoing global and domestic factors.

The Nifty index ended last week at 25,492.30, down 0.89% from the previous week, mainly due to continuous selling by foreign institutional investors (FIIs). Despite a strong domestic economy, weak global cues and fading hopes of a U.S. Federal Reserve rate cut kept markets under pressure. Sectoral declines in IT and metal stocks added to the weakness.

Analysts observed a bearish candle pattern on the charts, suggesting selling pressure at

higher points. "The Nifty's price action indicates consolidation, with resistance near 25,600–25,700 and support around 25,300–25,400," said Hardik Matalia of Choice Broking. The India VIX, a volatility indicator, rose 3.33% to 12.55, signaling a slight increase in market uncertainty.

The Bank Nifty index closed last week at 57,876.80, up 0.17%, showing limited movement and no clear direction. Analysts believe the index remains stable but indecisive, suggesting a continued consolidation phase until a breakout occurs.

Investors will focus on India's CPI and WPI inflation data this week, which could guide market sentiment and influence future policy decisions. Until then, experts expect the broader indices to trade within a defined range, awaiting stronger triggers for directional movement.

DPIIT signs over 50 deals to boost startups

NEW DELHI

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has signed over 50 agreements with major companies, including ITC, Flipkart, Mercedes-Benz, Hero Moto, Paytm, Walmart, and Ather Energy, to strengthen India's manufacturing and innovation ecosystem for startups, an official said on Sunday.

The move is part of the government's push to encourage manufacturing-focused startups by fostering collaboration between large corporates, industry associations, and unicorns. These partnerships aim to build manufacturing incubators, which will help new businesses access facilities and resources without heavy upfront investments.

"More than 50 firms have already inked Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with DPIIT," the official confirmed. The department has been reaching out to major organizations to highlight the benefits of supporting early-stage manufacturers and promoting innovation-led growth.

Manufacturing incubators play a vital role by offering shared facilities, including prototype labs, design centres, pilot plants, and test beds, enabling startups to develop, test, and scale their products efficiently. They also act as a bridge between startups and large companies, creating opportunities for technology collaboration, market access, and investment support.

Officials added that these incubators could be established by corporates, universities, or research institutions, ensuring a wide network of support for India's growing startup ecosystem.

DPIIT's initiative reflects India's vision to become a global manufacturing hub under "Make in India" and Startup India, helping startups transform ideas into successful, scalable businesses. The department believes that close cooperation between startups and industry giants will drive innovation, job creation, and economic resilience in the years ahead.

Govt earns ₹800 cr from scrap drive in October

NEW DELHI

The Union government has earned over ₹800 crore by selling scrap materials collected during its month-long nationwide cleanliness campaign. The "Swachhta Campaign 5.0," conducted from October 2 to 31, proved to be the largest since its launch in 2021, freeing 232 lakh square feet of office space and clearing 29 lakh files, officials said.

The massive drive, coordinated by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), covered nearly 11.58 lakh office sites across India. It was supervised by Union Ministers Mansukh Mandaviya, K. Ram Mohan Naidu, and Dr. Jitendra Singh, with participation from 84 ministries and departments, including Indian missions abroad.

Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for cleanliness and good governance, the campaign has become a major reform initiative. Since its inception, the government has earned around ₹4,100 crore through the sale of scrap and outdated assets. Over five editions of the drive, 23.62 lakh offices have been covered, and 928.84 lakh sq. ft. of space cleared.

Officials said this year's focus was also on reducing pending government work. Regular reviews ensured steady progress in clearing files and improving efficiency. Dr. Singh noted that earlier campaigns had already cleaned over 12 lakh sites and removed 137 lakh old files nationwide.

At the campaign's launch at Nehru Park, Dr. Singh joined activities like file weeding, tree planting under "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam," and Shramdaan. He said the initiative has led to visible improvements in governance and service delivery across ministries.

China pauses export ban on key minerals to US

BEIJING

China has suspended its export ban on several critical minerals, including gallium, germanium, and antimony, allowing shipments to the United States once again. The country's Commerce Ministry announced that the suspension will be in effect from Sunday until November 27, 2026.

These minerals are vital for producing semiconductors, electronics, and defense equipment. China, which dominates the global supply of these elements, had initially announced the export ban in December 2024, citing national security concerns. The ministry has now eased restrictions, including stricter end-user checks and limits on dual-use graphite exports, which were introduced alongside the ban.

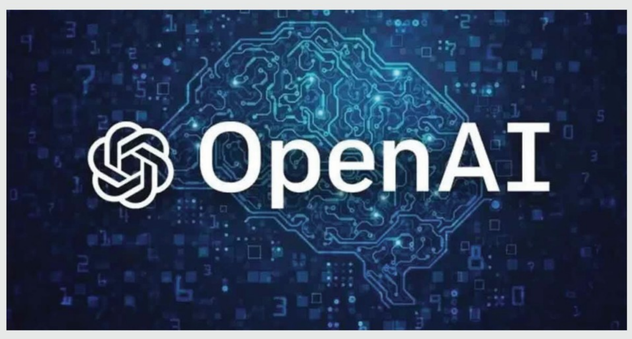
The move follows China's decision on Friday to lift additional controls imposed on rare earth materials and lithium battery components, signaling a temporary softening in its trade stance. Analysts believe the suspension could help reduce tensions between Beijing and Washington amid ongoing disputes over technology and security.

The decision comes shortly after a meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump, where both leaders agreed to pause new tariffs and other trade measures for one year. Observers see this as part of a broader effort to stabilize economic ties between the two countries.

By relaxing these export controls, China may be aiming to balance economic diplomacy with global market stability while maintaining leverage in future negotiations. The suspension also provides relief to U.S. industries dependent on Chinese supplies for high-tech manufacturing.

Critical minerals for semiconductors, electronics, and defense faced China's export ban in December 2024; restrictions eased with stricter end-user checks, including dual-use graphite limits

OpenAI predicts major AI breakthrough by 2028



NEW DELHI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is set to make major discoveries by 2028, according to OpenAI, which believes the technology is moving far beyond simple chatbots and search tools. The U.S.-based company said that while AI in 2026 may only make small discoveries, it will soon reach a stage where it can independently make significant contributions to science and innovation.

OpenAI explained that today's AI systems can already outperform the smartest humans in complex intellectual challenges. While these systems still have weaknesses, they are now "about 80% of the way to functioning like an AI researcher," the company said. The gap between how most people use AI and what it can actually do is vast, with immense potential for future growth.

The company noted that AI has advanced from handling tasks that take seconds for a human to those requiring hours, and soon, it will manage tasks that could take days or even weeks. OpenAI estimates that the cost per intelligence unit has dropped about 40 times per year in recent years, making powerful systems more accessible.

By the late 2020s, OpenAI expects AI to transform fields like healthcare, drug discovery, materials science, climate research, and education, bringing real-world benefits. However, it also warned about the risks of superintelligent systems, calling for deeper studies into AI safety and alignment before deploying such technologies.

"Superintelligent AI must never be released without proper control," the company emphasized, highlighting the need for responsible development.

Visa, Mastercard set to cut merchant fees soon

NEW YORK

Global payment giants Visa and Mastercard are close to finalizing a settlement with U.S. merchants that would reduce the fees retailers pay on card transactions and grant them greater control over which cards they accept, according to a Wall Street Journal report. The proposed agreement would lower interchange fees—commonly 2% to 2.5% per transaction—by about 0.1 percentage point on average over the next few years. It would also relax current rules that force merchants accepting one type of Visa or Mastercard to accept all card categories. This change could allow stores to reject high-fee cards, giving them more flexibility in managing payment costs. The settlement, expected soon, would divide card acceptance into categories such as rewards cards, non-reward cards, and commercial cards. It aims to end a legal dispute dating back to 2005, when merchants accused the companies of charging excessive "swipe fees" and preventing them from steering customers toward cheaper payment options. Last year, Visa and Mastercard reached a $30 billion settlement to cap card fees, agreeing to cut swipe rates by 0.04 percentage points for three years and maintain lower averages for five years. Both firms denied wrongdoing in that deal.

AMBITIOUS COAL DRIVE

Coal India aims for 875 MT production target

KOLKATA

Coal India Limited (CIL) aims to achieve, or come close to, its ambitious 875 million tonnes (MT) coal production target for the 2025–26 financial year, said its new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Sanoj Kumar Jha on Sunday. The statement came amid recent shortfalls in monthly production due to weather challenges.

Speaking at Hindustan Copper Ltd's 59th Foundation Day in Kolkata, Jha said, "I can't say we will meet or miss the target, but we will definitely aspire to reach it." He attributed the production decline in September and October mainly to heavy monsoon rains,

which disrupted mining operations across key coalfields.

In October, CIL's output dropped 9.8% to 56.4 MT, while September production stood at 48.97 MT. Despite these setbacks, Jha assured that the company will maintain adequate coal supplies for the power and industrial sectors, adding, "We will end this year with higher stock levels than last year."

CIL, which produces over 80% of India's coal, has also set a dispatch target of 900 MT for FY26. The company expects demand to recover soon, even though power sector consumption has been "sluggish" in recent months.

Jha, who took charge as CMD on November 1, also revealed that regulations for the proposed coal exchange are expected within the next six months.

At the same event, Hindustan Copper Ltd CMD Sanjiv Kumar Singh announced plans to expand copper ore production capacity from 4 MTPA to 12 MTPA by 2030–31, to meet India's growing metal demand.

NEW INDIA'S NEW MILITARY

A shake-up that meant to boost INDIA'S DEFENCE BACKBONE

Something big is happening in our armed forces right now, and it's not just another routine drill. From the freezing heights of Ladakh to the deserts of Rajasthan and the misty valleys of Arunachal Pradesh, thousands of soldiers, fighter jets, warships and tanks are engaged in massive military exercises that are actually rehearsals for how India will fight its future wars. What makes this moment different from anything we've seen before is that our military is fundamentally changing the way it fights, and these changes are coming from hard lessons learned in real battlefields, especially the Russia-Ukraine war and our own Operation Sindoor.

DEFENCE AND SPACE ANALYST
GIRISH LINGANNA

CHINA, WE'RE WATCHING!

Let's start with what's happening right now. The Army's Northern Command recently conducted Exercise 'Astra Shakti' in Ladakh, testing everything from pinpoint artillery strikes to swarm drones and anti-drone systems, with commandos working alongside the ITBP. This wasn't just a show of strength, it was a direct message to China that we're watching and we're ready.

TRISHUL: WHEN INDIA FLEXED MILITARY MUSCLE ON PAK BORDER

Meanwhile, a much bigger exercise called 'Trishul' has been underway from October 30 to November 10 across Rajasthan and Gujarat, involving a staggering 40,000 troops, special forces from Army and Navy, missile units, warships, battle tanks, Rafale and Sukhoi Su-30 fighter jets, all practising mock offensive strikes into southern Pakistan. India even issued a NOTAM blocking airspace up to 28,000 feet till November 10, which tells you this involved live missile firing and serious air combat manoeuvres over the Arabian Sea. Pakistan panicked so much that it issued its own airspace notice and put forces on high alert.

Why is exercise 'Trishul' so significant? Because Pakistan has suddenly become very interested in the Sir Creek region after reports of possible oil and gas reserves there. The Pakistan naval chief secretly visited the area, and they're building defensive structures. India's response through 'Trishul' is clear: any wrong move will be answered strongly. But there's a deeper purpose too. These exercises are testing how well our Army, Navy and Air Force can fight together as one integrated force, which is exactly how future Theatre Commands are supposed to work. Theatre Commands mean putting all three services under one commander for a specific region, so they can coordinate faster and hit harder during war, instead of working separately as they do now.

MYTHOLOGICAL NAMES & DEADLY MODERN PROWESS

The restructuring doesn't stop at exercises. The Army is creating entirely new types of units with names that sound straight out of mythology but represent deadly modern capabilities. Rudra Brigades are smaller, lighter and more agile than the traditional large formations, perfect for quick strikes. Bhairav Commando Battalions are elite light infantry units trained for special operations. Ashni Drone Platoons are being set up in 380 infantry battalions, each with strike and surveillance drones. So far, two Rudra Brigades and five Bhairav Battalions have been raised and deployed against both China in the north and Pakistan in the west. The fascinating part? All this is being done without increasing the total number of soldiers, just by reorganizing smartly and bringing in new technology.

ARTILLERY OVERHAUL

Artillery is getting a complete overhaul too, with older 105mm and 130mm guns being replaced by powerful 155mm guns, and orders have already been placed. Mechanised units with tanks and armoured personnel carriers are being restructured to fit modern warfare. Most importantly, almost all this new equipment is being made in India, supporting our push for self-reliance. We cannot afford to depend on imports when war doesn't wait for foreign suppliers to deliver spare parts.

THEATRE COMMANDS

But here's where things get really interesting, and also a bit worrying. While this transformation is happening, the creation of Theatre Commands, which everyone agrees is necessary, is getting delayed. The main problem is the Air Force's concern about having too few fighter jets and resources to spread across multiple theatre commands. This is a genuine issue, but it cannot become a permanent roadblock. Wars don't wait for us to have perfect resources. We need to find practical solutions and move forward, because the centralized-command style that worked during Operation Sindoor simply won't work in a large, multi-front war. Big conflicts need faster, decentralized-decision-making, and that's exactly what Theatre Commands will enable.

THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF RUDRA BRIGADES

China remains our biggest long-term threat. They keep making small aggressive moves near our border while staying ready for something much bigger. The brutal truth is that to stop China's intrusions, India needs to develop the capability to launch similar quick operations in areas that hurt them, in the same short time frame. Yes, this risks escalation, but we'll never know how they'll respond unless we show we can do it. This is where Rudra Brigades become crucial, they're designed exactly for such swift, limited operations. Our new 800-kilometre range BrahMos missiles, which the Defence Minister mentioned in context of Pakistan, are actually a game-changer against China because many of their military bases, supply routes and aircraft shelters near the LAC now fall within our striking range.

Pakistan's nuclear ploy

Pakistan, on the other hand, knows it cannot match India's conventional military strength. That's why they mostly rely on nuclear threats and propaganda warfare to survive. Operation Sindoor was just a small sample where no major Army formations were even moved. Future operations could be far bigger, and Exercise Trishul gives everyone a preview of what's possible when India decides to use its full conventional power.

Power of tech in force structure

But military hardware and new brigades alone won't win future wars. Modern warfare is changing dramatically. It's now dominated by air power, missiles, drones, rockets and special forces operations, though the Russia-Ukraine war proved that conventional ground troops still matter hugely for holding defensive positions. Our force structure must keep evolving with technology, Make in India must continue getting priority, and most critically, the government must ensure regular funding. If money gets blocked or reduced like it did earlier with the Mountain Strike Corps, this entire restructuring will slow down or stop.

Not just routine military drills

Text Text TextHere's the final reality check. Defence is important, it keeps you safe. But real deterrence comes from the ability to strike back hard. Strong fortifications, air defences and troops protect us, but they won't stop an opponent who uses small provocations to embarrass us. However, if we can both defend ourselves and respond by hitting enemy supply lines or bases after an attack, opponents will think twice before starting trouble. That counter-strike capability is what creates genuine deterrence. From Ladakh to Rajasthan to Arunachal Pradesh, what's happening right now in these exercises and restructuring is India building exactly that capability, and that's why these changes matter far more than just routine military drills.

Men need more exercise than women!

When it comes to fitness, the "one-size-fits-all" approach may not be entirely accurate — especially when comparing men and women. Emerging research suggests that men might need more exercise than women to achieve similar health benefits, particularly when it comes to heart health, metabolism, and longevity.

Biological factors at play

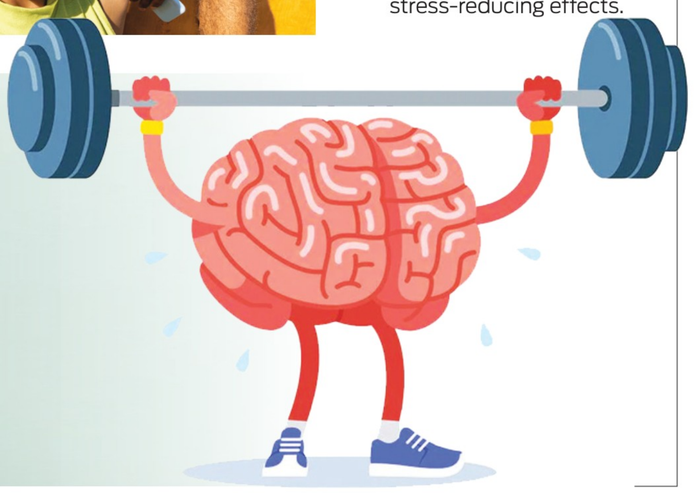
Men and women differ not just in hormones but also in muscle composition, fat distribution, and cardiovascular responses. Testosterone gives men an advantage in building muscle, but it also increases the need for higher energy expenditure to maintain metabolic balance. Women, on the other hand, are naturally more efficient at burning fat during low-intensity exercise, thanks to estrogen's protective influence.

EXERCISE AND MENTAL HEALTH

Both genders benefit mentally from exercise, but research indicates that women may experience greater emotional gains from shorter, less intense workouts, while men often require longer or more vigorous physical activity to achieve similar mood and stress-reducing effects.

Heart health and longevity

Recent studies have shown that moderate physical activity can significantly reduce the risk of heart disease in both sexes — but men often need to exercise more frequently or at higher intensities to gain the same level of protection. This may be because men tend to accumulate more visceral fat around the abdomen, which is strongly linked to cardiovascular disease and insulin resistance.

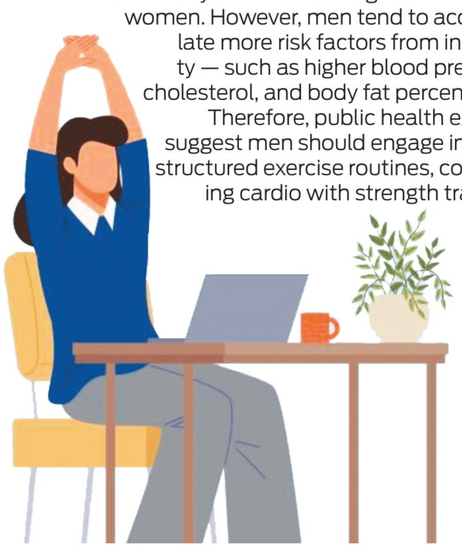


FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE

While men may need more exercise quantitatively, the quality of movement matters for everyone. Women benefit from strength training just as men do, and men gain from flexibility and endurance exercises traditionally favored by women. The key lies in maintaining a consistent, well-rounded routine that suits individual needs, age, and health conditions.

LIFESTYLE AND SEDENTARY RISKS

Modern lifestyles, especially desk-bound jobs, have increased sedentary behavior among both men and women. However, men tend to accumulate more risk factors from inactivity — such as higher blood pressure, cholesterol, and body fat percentages. Therefore, public health experts suggest men should engage in more structured exercise routines, combining cardio with strength training.



BEARING ON CURRENT GUIDELINES

Current international and national exercise guidelines (such as those from the World Health Organization and the American Heart Association) generally recommend the same minimum amount of exercise for all adults—typically at least 150 minutes of moderate activity per week.

These new findings suggest that a sex-specific approach might be more effective, especially for preventative heart health.

WHAT'S THE REMEDY?

The idea that men may need more exercise than women isn't about competition — it's about biology. Gender differences influence how our bodies respond to physical activity, but both men and women share one universal truth: regular exercise remains one of the most powerful tools for a healthier, longer life.

VIJAY GARG
RETIRED PRINCIPAL & EDUCATIONIST

Third-generation Ghattamaneni to debute soon

A new chapter is beginning for the famous Ghattamaneni family of Telugu cinema. Decades ago, Superstar Krishna Ghattamaneni became a legend, changing the face of Telugu films in the 1960s. His sons, Ramesh Babu and Mahesh Babu, continued that proud legacy, with Mahesh becoming one of the most celebrated actors in the industry.

Now, the torch passes to the next generation. Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni, grandson of Superstar Krishna and son of the late Ramesh Babu, is all set to make his acting debut. The film will be directed by Ajay Bhupathi, best known for the hit movie RX 100.

Veteran producer Ashwini Dutt of Vyjayanthi Movies, a long-time collaborator with the Ghattamaneni family, will present the film. The production will be handled by P. Kiran under the Chandamama Kathalu banner.

Dutt, who earlier made Agni Parvatham with Krishna and later launched Mahesh Babu in Rajakumarudu, now continues the family's cinematic legacy with Jaya Krishna.

Vijay dazzles fans with Thalapathy Kacheri song

Kollywood superstar Thalapathy Vijay has once again set the stage ablaze with the release of Thalapathy Kacheri, the first single from his much-awaited final film, Jana Nayagan. The energetic number, unveiled on Saturday evening, has instantly become a sensation among fans, celebrating Vijay's signature charisma "one last time" on screen.

The song captures Vijay in his full "mass hero" glory — dancing with unmatched energy and style. Accompanying him are actresses Pooja Hegde and Mamitha Baiju, who add glamour and charm to the vibrant visuals. Composed by Anirudh Ravichander, the track is a lively, foot-tapping number that fans are calling a perfect farewell tune for the beloved star.

Adding to the excitement, Vijay himself has sung the song, making Thalapathy Kacheri even more special for his followers. Director H. Vinoth has reportedly brought back the classic, vintage Vijay that audiences have adored for decades. The song has already turned into a massive chartbuster, skyrocketing expectations for the film's release.

Jana Nayagan, also starring Bobby Deol in a pivotal role, is set to hit theaters on January 9, 2026, as a Pongal treat. Produced by Venkat K. Narayana under KVN Productions, with Jagadish Palanisamy and Lohith N.K. co-producing, the film promises an emotional and powerful send-off for Vijay.

PRABHAS fans excited for 'The Raja Saab' songs

The excitement around Prabhas's upcoming film The Raja Saab is reaching new heights, as fans eagerly await the release of its first single. Directed by Maruthi, this horror-comedy has been one of the most talked-about films in recent times.

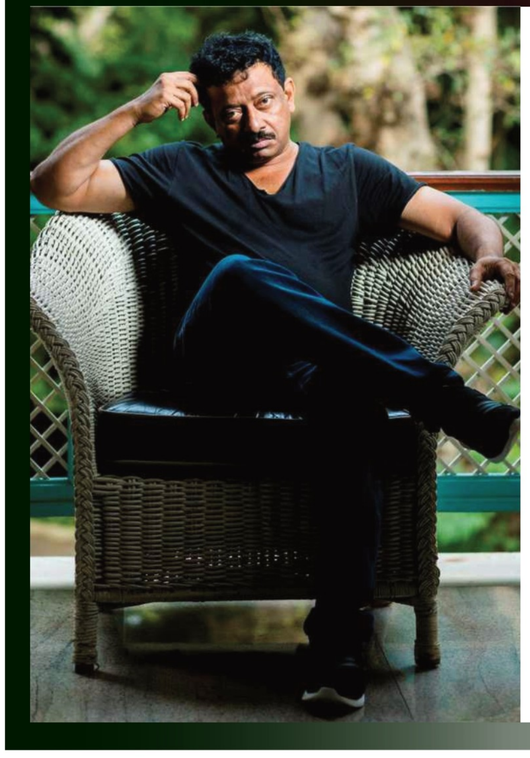
Music director Thaman recently gave fans an update on the much-anticipated songs. He revealed that the first track will be officially announced within a week. Thaman also confirmed that the film will release three songs back-to-back, promising a musical treat for the audience. He urged fans to stay positive and avoid engaging in any negative trends, assuring them that the movie will entertain and impress.

The film stars Prabhas alongside female leads Malavika Mohanan, Nidhhi Agerwal, and Ridhhi Kumar. Adding a special touch to the story, Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt plays the role of Prabhas's grandfather.

Produced by People Media Factory, The Raja Saab is a pan-Indian project with high expectations from fans across the country. The film is set to hit theaters on January 9, 2026, making it one of the major releases of the new year.

With Thaman promising a string of back-to-back songs and the ensemble cast in place, anticipation continues to build, keeping Prabhas fans glued to every update about this grand cinematic venture.

RGV seeks forgiveness from Chiranjeevi



Maverick filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma has extended a heartfelt apology to Megastar Chiranjeevi, marking a moment of reconciliation in Telugu cinema. Years ago, Varma had made several controversial comments about Chiranjeevi and even took indirect jabs at Pawan Kalyan through his movies. However, the director now appears to have left those disputes behind, focusing once again on what he loves most — making films. Varma has recently resumed directing in Hindi, signaling a creative comeback. Meanwhile, his legendary debut film Shiva, considered a landmark in Telugu film history, is all set for a grand re-release in 4K Dolby Atmos. Ahead of the re-release, Chiranjeevi shared a video recalling the tremendous impact Shiva had when it first hit theaters in 1989. In his message, the Megastar praised Nagarjuna Akkineni for his powerful performance and credited Varma for bringing a revolutionary touch to filmmaking. "I thought then that this young filmmaker would rule the industry," Chiranjeevi fondly said.

'Telusu Kada' set for Netflix streaming debut

Romantic drama Telusu Kada, which hit theaters during the Sankranthi season, is now ready for its digital premiere. Starring Siddhu Jonnalagadda, Raashii Khanna, and Srinidhi Shetty in the lead roles, the film marks the directorial debut of popular stylist and writer Neeraja Kona.

After weeks of anticipation, the movie has finally locked its OTT release date.

Streaming giant Netflix has officially announced that Telusu Kada will premiere on November 14, 2025. The film will initially stream in Telugu, with versions in Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam expected to follow soon after.

Telusu Kada explores love, heartbreak, and second chances through the lives of three characters whose paths unexpectedly cross.

While the film opened to mixed reviews in theaters earlier this year, audiences appreciated its music, emotional storytelling, and fresh visual style.

Anupama Parameswaran identifies culprit behind online harassment

Actress Anupama Parameswaran, known for her roles in Tamil and Telugu films such as Paradha, Kishkindhapuri, and Bison, has revealed that she was recently the target of severe online harassment.

In a detailed statement, she shared how an Instagram user had circulated morphed images and spread false claims about her, her family, and co-stars. According to Anupama, the same person operated multiple fake accounts to post hateful comments on every post linked to her.

Deeply disturbed by the harassment, she lodged a formal complaint with the Kerala Cyber Crime Police, who quickly traced the offender. The investigation revealed that the culprit was a 20-year-old girl from Tamil Nadu.

Choosing compassion over punishment, Anupama stated she would not reveal the young woman's identity. "Considering her age, I don't want to ruin her future or peace of mind," she said. However, the actress made it clear that cyberbullying carries legal consequences.

She used the incident to remind social media users about responsibility and accountability online. "Owning a smartphone or accessing social media doesn't give anyone the right to harass or defame others. Every action online leaves a trace," she cautioned.

Jennifer Lawrence calls Kourtney Kardashian 'annoying'

Hollywood star Jennifer Lawrence recently opened up about her thoughts on the Kardashians in a candid interview during a lie-detector test with co-star Robert Pattinson.

Known for her love of reality TV, Jennifer previously made a cameo on Keeping Up with the Kardashians in 2019. However, she admits that her patience with Kourtney Kardashian is wearing thin.

Jennifer revealed that she hasn't been keeping up with the latest season but stays updated through TikTok gossip. She said, "Kourtney is more annoying than ever. She drives me nuts…because everything has to be an announcement. It's like, 'I'm not gonna wear outfits anymore,' or 'I don't have a TV in my room.' Just don't announce it. Just shh!" Her playful critique highlights how even devoted fans can find the reality star over-the-top at times.

Jennifer also joked about Kim Kardashian's viral SKIMS merkin line, describing it as looking like a "rabbit foot, like a good luck charm."

Fans quickly reacted online, praising Jennifer's honesty. Comments ranged from agreeing with her observations to calling her "basically part of the family" for her candid humor.

Meanwhile, Jennifer is receiving glowing reviews for her lead role in Die My Love, a psychological drama directed by Lynne Ramsay and produced by Martin Scorsese. The film, released in the U.S. on November 7, tells the story of a woman whose mental state deteriorates while living with her husband, and critics are calling Jennifer's performance "Oscar-worthy."

WASHINGTON SUNDAR
Named Impact Player of the Series

All-rounder's match-winning knocks and key spells highlight his growing value to India's T20 setup

BRISBANE

Washington Sundar's reputation as one of India's most adaptable all-rounders received a major boost after he was named Impact Player of the Series following India's 2-1 T20I triumph over Australia.

A video shared by the BCCI on Sunday showed Sundar beaming as team operations manager Rahil Khaja handed him the medal in the dressing room. "Coming over here and getting an opportunity to play in Australia is amazing, and to have contributed to the team's victory makes me definitely happy," said the 26-year-old.

Sundar's performances through the series underlined his value as a utility player in India's T20I setup. In the third match at Hobart, he was promoted up the order and responded with a blistering 49 off 23 balls — an innings laced with four sixes and three boundaries — guiding India to a five-wicket win.

In the next game, held in Brisbane, he struck with the ball during the death overs, claiming three wickets in just two overs to trigger an Australian collapse. His late spell helped India seal a 48-run win and, ultimately, the series after the fifth match was washed out.

Sundar also praised Khaja's behind-the-scenes efforts, saying, "It's such a great feeling to get this medal from him. We know the kind of work he puts in every single day to make our jobs easy."

The Impact Player of the Series award, recently introduced by the BCCI, recognises players who make decisive contributions in bilateral contests. In the preceding ODI series against Australia, India captain Rohit Sharma had received the same honour for his standout batting displays.

Rathika Falls Short in Thrilling NSW Open Squash Final

SYDNEY

India's Rathika Suthanthira Seelan came agonisingly close to clinching the NSW Open squash title, falling to Canadian top seed Iman Shaheen in a gripping five-game final on Sunday.

The 24-year-old Rathika, seeded second and ranked world No.180, displayed remarkable grit and skill to push the contest to the wire in her fourth PSA final. After dropping the first two games 8-11, 3-11, she mounted a spirited comeback, winning the next two 11-4 and 12-10 to level the match. However, Shaheen held her nerve in the deciding game to close out the contest 12-10 in a pulsating 61-minute battle.

Despite the defeat, Rathika's performance in Sydney underscored her growing stature on the PSA Tour. Her ability to bounce back after a sluggish start and take the world No.121-ranked Shaheen to the brink reflected both her fitness and mental toughness.

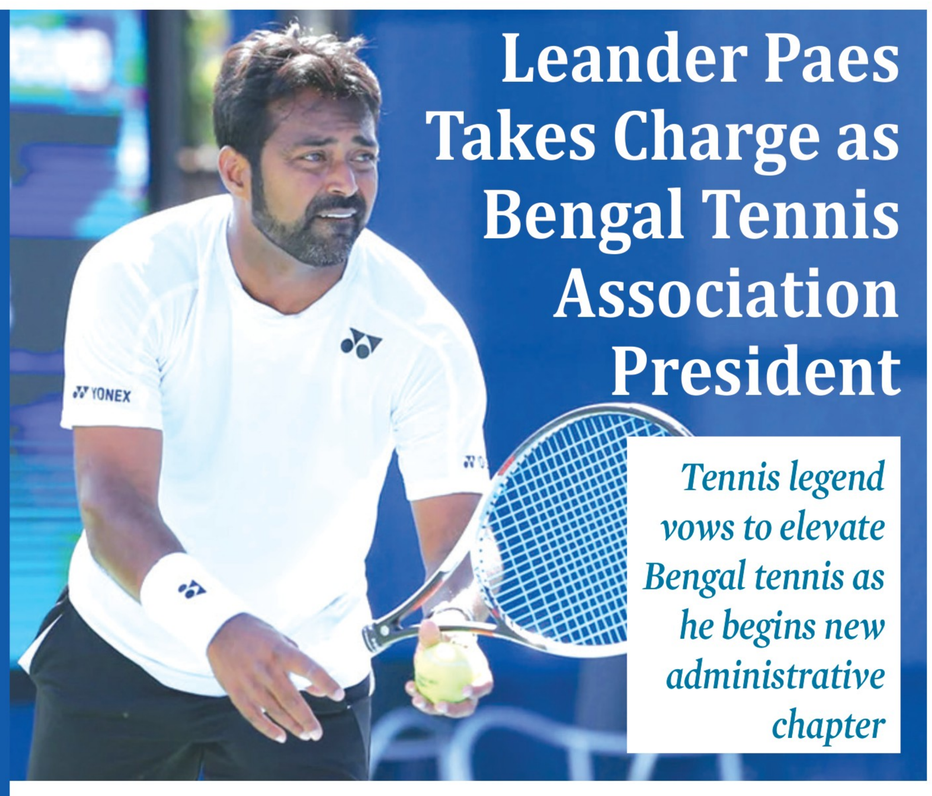
Indian No.180 pushes Canadian top seed Iman Shaheen to the limit in title clash

A day earlier, the Chennai-based player had stormed into the final with a straight-games victory over New Zealand's sixth seed Emma Merson, winning 11-6, 11-7, 11-8. The result marked her fourth career appearance in a PSA title match and continued her steady rise among India's emerging women's squash players.

Meanwhile, in Springfield, USA, India's Veer Chotrani reached the final of the St James Expression Open, a PSA Copper event. The fifth seed and world No.51 defeated American third seed Timothy Brownell 11-8, 11-8, 11-4 in the semifinals to set up a summit clash with Mexican top seed Leonel Cardenas.

Rathika's narrow loss and Chotrani's progress highlight India's growing presence on the global squash circuit, with both players showing the potential to break into higher rankings in the coming season.

Leander Paes Takes Charge as Bengal Tennis Association President



Tennis legend vows to elevate Bengal tennis as he begins new administrative chapter

KOLKATA

Indian tennis great Leander Paes formally assumed charge as president of the Bengal Tennis Association (BTA), marking a new phase in his illustrious sporting journey. The 18-time Grand Slam champion in men's and mixed doubles was unanimously elected last month to succeed Hironmoy Chatterjee following the Association's Annual General Meeting.

Paes, who had been serving as BTA's honorary vice-president, expressed deep emotion as he returned to the very institution where his tennis career began. "It is a very humbling day for me. I miss my father a lot. I grew up playing junior tennis at BTA — the under-10s, under-12s, under-14s — including the Limca Masters at South Club," said Paes, who lost his father, Dr Vece Paes, in August this year.

The 51-year-old also credited his longtime mentors Hironmoy Chatterjee and Sujoy Ghosh for shaping his career. "Leander Paes would not be who he is without Hironmoy Chatterjee and Papu Da (Sujoy Ghosh). I've got big shoes to fill," he said. Paes paid tribute to their role in India's Davis Cup achievements, recalling key ties against Switzerland, Sweden, Croatia, and Pakistan that helped India build a formidable record.

Promising to bring the same discipline to administration that defined his playing career, Paes said, "This is my first serve at governance. I'll be a student and a student leader to my entire team."

Outgoing president Chatterjee announced that two international tournaments are planned for early next year — the DKS ITF Juniors from January 19 to 24, followed by a men's USD 30,000 event starting March 9. With Paes now at the helm, Kolkata boasts two sporting icons leading state bodies — Paes in tennis and Sourav Ganguly in cricket.

Griezmann Brace Lifts Atletico; Villarreal Close Gap on Liga Leaders

BARCELONA

Antoine Griezmann came off the bench to score twice and inspire Atletico Madrid to a 3-1 win over Levante on Saturday, keeping Diego Simeone's men firmly in the La Liga title chase. Villarreal, meanwhile, climbed to second place after easing past Espanyol 2-0 away from home.

Atletico, unbeaten in 11 league games, took the lead in the 12th minute when Pablo Barrios' cross-shot deflected off Levante defender Adrian de la Fuente and into the net. The visitors equalized soon after as Manu Sanchez headed in from a corner. With the game finely poised, Simeone turned to his talisman Griezmann just after the hour mark — and the veteran Frenchman made an immediate impact.

Only 28 seconds after coming on, Griezmann restored Atletico's lead by tapping in Marcos Llorente's cutback — the fastest goal by a substitute in La Liga over the past decade. He added a second in the 80th minute, reacting quickest after Julian Alvarez's shot was parried by Mathew Ryan. A late

Levante goal was ruled out for offside, sealing Atletico's victory and moving them level on points with Barcelona.

"It's hard for us to find solutions sometimes, but those who come off the bench bring a spark," Griezmann said after the match. "I have big shoes to fill, but I'm always ready when the team needs me."

At the RCDE Stadium, Villarreal responded to their midweek Champions League loss with a confident performance. Gerard Moreno curled home a first-half strike against his former club, before Alberto Moleiro doubled the advantage early in the second half.

Union Berlin Halts Bayern's Record Streak with 2-2 Draw

BERLIN

Bayern Munich's perfect start to the season came to an end as Union Berlin held the German champions to a thrilling 2-2 draw in the Bundesliga, snapping their record 16-game winning streak across competitions.

Dutch defender Danilho Doekhi was Union's hero, scoring twice to stun Vincent Kompany's Bayern, who needed a stoppage-time equalizer from Harry Kane to salvage a point. "We won a point today. At Bayern, when you don't win, you lose two points — but the mentality in the 92nd minute matters," Kompany said, reflecting on his team's late escape.

Union started brighter and had a goal by Ilyas Ansah ruled out for offside after a VAR review. The hosts were rewarded in the 27th minute when Janik Haberer's low corner caught Bayern's defense off guard and Doekhi swept home from close range.

Bayern responded through Luis Díaz, who showed superb control and precision to equalize from a tight angle in the 38th minute. Union, however, refused to wilt. In the 83rd minute, Doekhi pounced again — chesting down Kane's failed clearance and prodding past Manuel Neuer to send the home fans into raptures at the Stadion An der Alten Försterei.

Kane made amends in stoppage time, heading home to secure a 2-2 draw that preserved Bayern's unbeaten record but ended their winning run one short of equaling their 2015 Bundesliga start of ten straight league victories.

Elsewhere, Borussia Mönchengladbach beat Cologne 3-1 in the Rhine derby, Hamburger SV held Borussia Dortmund 1-1, and Hoffenheim stunned Leipzig 3-1, while Bayer Leverkusen crushed Heidenheim 6-0.

Former National Coach Pradeep Kumar Praises NAC's Innovative Swimming Initiative

BENGALURU

Dronacharya Award-winning coach Pradeep Kumar, one of India's most respected swimming mentors, praised the Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre (NAC) for its progressive initiatives to promote competitive swimming during the opening of the Nettakallappa Swimming Competition on Saturday. Having devoted over four decades to training Indian swimmers, Pradeep Kumar watched with pride as emerging talents raced alongside national champions. The former national head coach, who has mentored several Olympians, was particularly impressed with NAC's introduction of the SKINS race format, calling it "very challenging and exciting."

Pradeep said parents invest enormous time and money for their children to succeed, and events that offer cash rewards act as powerful motivation. The opening ceremony featured leading swimmers, including Olympian Srihari Nataraj, Manavi Varma, Nina Venkatesh, Vidith S Shankar and Darshan S.

Pradeep Kumar's endorsement underscores NAC's growing reputation as a centre for excellence, strengthening Bengaluru's position in Indian swimming.

Faced a Lot of Struggles Last Year: Shafali Verma

CHANDIGARH

World Cup hero Shafali Verma said her difficult year and constant hard work shaped her success. Player of the Final in India's maiden Women's World Cup win, she said she stayed calm under pressure and grabbed her chance as a replacement. She thanked her family, called Tendulkar her role model, urged girls to trust themselves, and recalled Prime Minister Modi motivating the winning squad.

TURIN (ITALY)

Novak Djokovic Withdraws from ATP Finals after Athens Win

Seven-time ATP Finals champion Novak Djokovic has withdrawn from the season-ending tournament due to a shoulder injury, just hours after clinching his 101st career title at the Hellenic Championship in Athens. Djokovic battled for nearly three hours to defeat Italy's Lorenzo Musetti 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 in the final before announcing his decision. Musetti will now replace the world number one in the Jimmy Connors Group at the ATP Finals starting Sunday. "I was really looking forward to competing in Turin, but I need to withdraw due to an ongoing injury," Djokovic said. The 38-year-old Serbian, who missed last year's event with injury, said strong medication had allowed him to play the Athens final but ruled out a full recovery in time for Turin.

BENGALURU

Chinthan Shetty Stuns Olympian Srihari Nataraj at Nettakallappa Meet

A blazing start and strong finish helped 17-year-old Chinthan S Shetty of Lakshyan Academy of Sports edge out two-time Olympian Srihari Nataraj to clinch gold in the men's SKINS 50m butterfly race on the opening day of the fourth Nettakallappa Swimming Competition on Saturday. All eyes were on Srihari in the SKINS format—where the top eight swimmers battle it out across three rounds—but Chinthan stole the show, clocking 25.16 seconds to Srihari's 25.49s. Dharshan S of Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre took bronze with 26.31s. In the women's SKINS 50m butterfly, Rujuta Rajadnya of Deccan Aquatics (29.53s) triumphed ahead of Naisha Shetty (29.59s) and Hashika Ramachandra (29.74s).

JERUSALEM

Six Arrested After Brawl Following Israeli Soccer Match

Six soccer fans were arrested in northern Israel on Saturday night after a violent clash between supporters of Bnei Sakhnin and Maccabi Haifa following their goalless draw in Sakhnin, police said. According to Israeli police, fans from both sides were involved in the brawl and public disorder, with two people requiring medical attention. Some spectators had earlier been removed from the stadium and fined after being found in possession of pyrotechnic devices, a police statement added. Israeli soccer supporters have been under close watch since November 2024, when Maccabi Tel Aviv fans were involved in violent incidents before and after a match in Amsterdam.

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